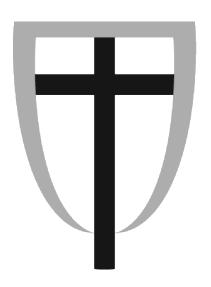
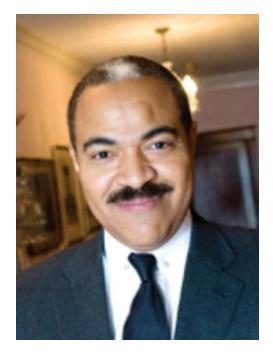
Thanksgiving for the life of **VALERIAN EDWARD BUTLER SMITH, III**

Saturday, February 25, 2023 12:00 P.M.



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH BATON ROUGE, LA



VALERIAN EDWARD BUTLER SMITH, III "Peppah" May 21, 1959 – January 27, 2023

Valerian Edward Butler Smith, III, known fondly as "Peppah," departed this life on Friday, January 27, 2023, at University Medical Center New Orleans after a brief respiratory illness, ending a valiant seven year journey through the debilitating effects of an aortic rupture and subsequent anoxic brain injury in 2015. Through it all, his was an extraordinary life.

As one of Mr. Butler Smith's former business partners recently said, "To talk about Peppah as an investment banker would do him such a disservice. It was business that brought us together but we did so much more than that because he knew so much and taught me so much. The breadth and depth of his knowledge and interests were truly other-worldly." His life can justifiably be characterized as extraordinary because of the passion with which he pursued it and shared it.

He had the rare ability to pursue interests until they were passions until his knowledge became encyclopedic and execution prodigious. While an internationally-focused investment banker, playing the cello, riding horses, gardening, cooking, drawing, dancing, historic preservation, history, decorative and fine arts were passions for which he acquired great knowledge and proficiency.

Mr. Butler Smith was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on May 21, 1959 to Valeria Jean Butler and the late Dr. Valerian E. Smith. He was educated in Baton Rouge through elementary school. Recognized as a prodigious cellist, performing the Saint-Seans cello concerto accompanied by the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra at twelve years old, he was encouraged to attend North Carolina School of the Arts. After several years there and studying summers in Sienna, Italy with Janos Starker, after being hand-selected by the famous cellist, he decided that finance would be his career and music his constant companion.

He returned to Baton Rouge, transferring to Catholic High School (Class of 1977), where he excelled academically and in Dramatic Arts, while resuming cello instruction with Thaddeus Brys. His first and only choice and only application for undergraduate study was Princeton University. He was accepted, majored in International Economics, and graduated Class of 1982. At Princeton, Mr. Butler Smith was a member of Ivy Club, First Chair of the Princeton Orchestra and Captain of the Equestrian Team.

After graduating, he began his career in finance in New Orleans, Louisiana, first at Howard, Weil, Labouisse, Friedrichs, Inc. and later was a co-founding partner of Washington, Hackett, Smith & Company, the "ground-breaking first minority-owned plan fiduciary pension consulting firm in the United States." He relocated to New York as Vice President of First Capital Advisors, later founding investment banking, private investment management firm Ashland Capital Holdings. After many years, he transferred the company's base of operations to Louisiana after returning to Baton Rouge.

A "Cradle Episcopalian," Mr. Butler Smith was devoted to his faith and Anglicanism all his life. He served in many capacities in the Episcopal Diocese of New York and his New York City parish church, All Saints Episcopal, including Warden of the Vestry. After returning to Baton Rouge, his membership and participation in the life of St. James Episcopal Church was a source of great joy and fulfillment. As was his membership on the Princeton Board of Governors. This was the means by which, with his customary commitment and enthusiasm, he recruited regional students for acceptance to Princeton University, especially minority and underserved students, often mentoring them for as long as a year. He dedicated similar focus and energy to people of all ages, especially young people and particularly his nieces and nephew to whom he was passionately devoted. He considered it his duty to inspire and guide them to recognize and achieve the potential he always saw in them.

Mr. Butler Smith was preceded in death by his father, Dr. Valerian E. Smith; his maternal grandparents, Dr. Leo S. Butler and Estelle Devall Butler; his paternal grandparents, Dr. Dennis E. Smith and Willia Hundley Smith; aunt, Elayne Butler Bryant; and first cousin, William Carlton Washington, II. He is survived by his devoted mother, V. Jean Butler; sisters, Lynn Whitfield of Los Angeles, CA, Kimberleigh Butler-Smith Taylor, Shawne Langston Emery (Calvin), both of Baton Rouge; nieces, Victoria Holbrooke Langston, Elizabeth Ashland Langston of Baton Rouge; LA, Grace Victoria Gibson of New Orleans, LA, and nephew, Martin Andrew Langston of Baton Rouge; aunts Shirley Butler Pierce of Citrus Heights, CA, Hedi M. Butler of Baton Rouge, LA, Thelma Smith Williams of Grambling, LA; uncle Dr. D'Orsay Deavenport Bryant, Jr. (Kathy); cousins Dr. D'Orsay Deavenport Bryant, III (Karen), Sharon Bryant Zimmerman (James), Sherri Bryant-Moore, Leighton Butler Bryant, Duane D'Vaughn Pierce, Donna Pierce Lazarchick (Craig), Carla Washington Hines (Lovett), Alicia D. Williams, Alyson Williams Azodeh, Clifton Frederick Nelson, III; godson D'Orsay Deavenport Bryant, IV; beloved caregiver Eric Todd McZeal and many extended, bereaved relatives.

Due to his beloved St. James being located on the Mardi Gras parade route and there are afternoon parades on February 11 and 18, Mr. Butler Smith's funeral will take place at St. James Episcopal Church on Saturday, February 25, 2023. Visitation 10:00 am to 11:30 am followed by the funeral service at noon and interment at Roselawn Memorial Park.

Burial of the Dead, Rite I

Opening Anthem

The people stand as the procession enters. The Celebrant says the following words.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold, and not as a stranger. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For if we live, we live unto the Lord. and if we die, we die unto the Lord. Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Time of Remembrance

Effie Wilbert Carter

The people are seated.

Opening Hymn Hymn 518

The people stand for the hymn.



Westminster Abbey

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you. People And with thy spirit. Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Valerian, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The people are seated.

The First Lesson Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 Dr. D'Orsay Bryant, III

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject for ever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

The Psalter Psalm 46 God is our hope and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof rage and swell, and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same. There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest. God is in the midst of her. therefore shall she not be removed; God shall help her, and that right early. Be still then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, and I will be exalted in the earth.

The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

The Second Lesson II Corinthians 4:16-5:9

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body.

Reader The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

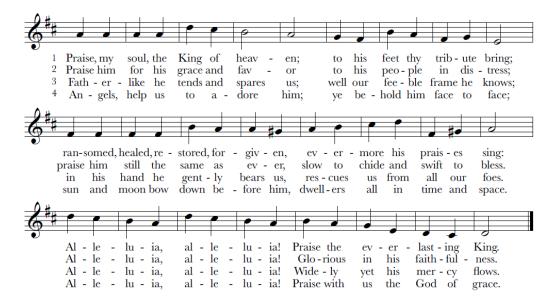
sung by the choir

Sharon Bryant Zimmerman

Sequence Hymn

Hymn 410

Lauda anima



The GospelJohn 14:1-6PreacherThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.PeopleGlory be to thee, O Lord.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Preacher	The Gospel of the Lord.
People	Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Homily

Musical Reflection

Dream of a Time

The Rev. Christopher R. Duncan

Written by Valerian E. Smith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth, thy light and thy peace. **Amen.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. Amen.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that thy Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. Amen.

Grant to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. Amen.

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. **Amen**.

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. **Amen**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. **Amen.**

Grant us grace to entrust Valerian to thy never-failing love; receive him into the arms of thy mercy, and remember him according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. Amen.

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, Valerian may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

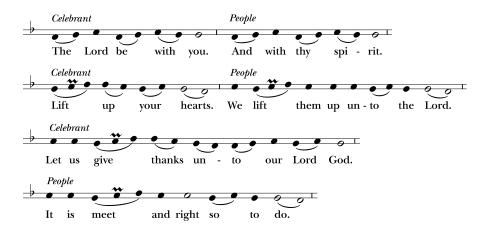
The People greet one another with the peace of Christ through a handshake or hug. Following the Peace, a member of the clergy will greet everyone and give instructions for Holy Eucharist.

The Offertory Anthem Ad

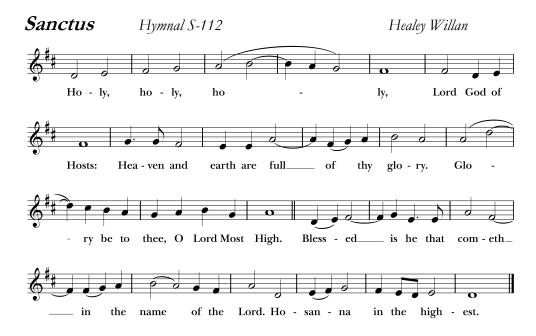
Abide with me

William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

The Great Thanksgiving



It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and doth comfort us with the blessed hope of everlasting life; for to thy faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body doth lie in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



The people kneel or stand.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN**.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

The Fraction Anthem

Sung by the choir.

Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The people will be invited forward, starting from the front, by the ushers.

Hymns at Communion

The following hymns at communion can be found in the blue Hymnal 1982.

Hymn 482, Lord of all hopefullness	Slane
Hymn 516, Come down, O Love divine	Down Ampney
Hymn 400, All creatures of our God and King	Lasst uns erfreuen

Postcommunion Prayer

Almighty God, we thank thee that in thy great love thou hast fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and hast given unto us a foretaste of thy heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be unto us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Commendation

Celebrant Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints, *People* where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. *Celebrant* Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." All we go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia. *People* Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither

People Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

The Celebrant continues with the Prayer of Commendation

Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant Valerian. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Processional



6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

The Dismissal

PreacherAlleluia. Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.PeopleThanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The service continues at Roselawn with the Committal. A procession will leave from 4th St. and the parking lot.

The Committal

The Officiant leads the procession from the hearse to the gravesite with the following anthem.

In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for succor, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased? Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death. Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Savior, thou most worthy Judge eternal. Suffer us not, at our last hour, through any pains of death, to fall from thee.

Then, while earth is cast upon the coffin, the Officiant says these words.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Valerian; and we commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious unto him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

Officiant	The Lord be with you.
People	And with thy Spirit.
Officiant	Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Then the Officiant may say.

O Almighty God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, who by a voice from heaven didst proclaim, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: Multiply, we beseech thee, to those who rest in Jesus the manifold blessings of thy love, that the good work which thou didst begin in them may be made perfect unto the day of Jesus Christ. And of thy mercy, O heavenly Father, grant that we, who now serve thee on earth, may at last, together with them, be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- Officiant Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord:
- *People* And let light perpetual shine upon him.
- *Officiant* May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Here ends the service. Thank you for joining us in celebrating Valerian's life in the light of Christ's resurrection.

Participants in the Service

Celebrant	The Rev. Dr. Andrew M Harmon
Preacher	The Rev. Christopher R. Duncan
Eulogist	Effie Wilbert Carter
Lectors	Dr. D'Orsay Bryant, III Sharon Bryant Zimmerman
Director of Music	Shannon Gallier
Choir	St. James Schola
Cellist	Malcolm Parson
Thurifer	John Ozier
Crucifer	Clark Olsson
Torches	Carolena Duncan Nils Duncan
Sign Language Interpreter	Valerie Fletcher
Pallbearers	Martin Andrew Langston Dr. D'Orsay Deavenport Bryant, III Leighton Butler Bryant Clifton Frederick Nelson, III Duane D'Vaughn Pierce Eric Todd McZeal
Honorary Pallbearers	Dr. D'Orsay Bryant, Jr. Herman Jackson Bishop Calvin Emery Collis Temple Dr. Melvin Murrill Dr. Martin Langston Joseph Delpit Henry Byrd Brandon James James Draper

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