



**THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP
AT WORSHIP**

JUNE 3, 2025

A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

IN MEMORY OF

RICHARD BENJAMIN JOHNSON, JR.

APRIL 22, 1945—MAY 16, 2025

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

✠ **HYMN 840**

When Peace Like a River

VILLE DU HAVRE

✠ **PRAYER**

Eternal God,
our strength and our comfort,
our hope and our help,
your love cares for us in life
and watches over us in death.
We praise you for the great company
of all those who have kept the faith,
finished their race,
and who now rest from their labor.
Especially we thank you for Richard,
whom you have now received into your presence.
We are grateful for all he gave us,
for the memories that will abide with us,
and for the assurance that he lives forever
in the peace and joy of your unending love.
Take from us now our regrets and sorrows,
and grant us your grace, we pray,
that as we face the mystery of death
we may see the light of eternity,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

silent prayer

Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

✠ **DECLARATION**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 8
Psalm 91:1-6, 11-16
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:7

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

The Lord is my shepherd

Howard Goodall
(b. 1958)

SERMON

✠ **HYMN 8**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

MELITA

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

✠ **HYMN 326**

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

✠ **COMMENDATION**

✠ **BLESSING**

✠ **CHORAL RESPONSE**

✠ **RECESSIONAL**

*Following the service, everyone is invited to a reception
in the Gathering Area adjacent to the Sanctuary.*

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster

Rev. Keatan King

Rev. Omar Rouchon

The St. Philip Choir

Matthew Dirst, organist

Justin Langham, director of music



RICHARD BENJAMIN JOHNSON, JR., MD, PhD, age 80, of Houston, Texas, passed away on May 16, 2025.

Richard was born April 22, 1945, to Richard Benjamin Johnson and Bernice (McCarroll) Johnson in Jonesboro, Arkansas. The family moved to Orange, Texas, in 1946 where Richard and his two younger brothers, James Noble Johnson and Philip McCarroll Johnson, were raised by their parents with the help of music and God's love at the First Presbyterian Church of Orange, Texas. Richard played the trumpet in the school bands from junior high school through college. He graduated from Litcher Stark High School Class of 1963 with honors in physics and typing.

Following graduation from Austin College in 1967 with a major in Chemistry, Richard entered Columbia University. There in 1972 he received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1972, followed by Post-Doctoral Research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York. In 1975, Richard entered the University of Texas at Houston School of Medicine's three-year MD Program. Graduating in June 1978, he began his Medical Internship at U.S. Navy, Portsmouth Naval Hospital 1978-1979. He served as Medical Officer in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Mississippi, CGN 40 from 1979-1980. He completed his naval service as Medical Officer, U.S. Navy, Clinic Command, Naval Regional Medical Center in 1985.

Richard entered private practice in Norfolk, Virginia in 1985 after being Board Certified in Internal Medicine. He continued private practice as a General Internist at Diagnostic Clinic of Houston 1993-2006, then in solo private practice in Kerrville, TX from 2006-2018. His clinical specialty was hypertension, and he also admitted that he had "a puppy love of cardiology". The practice of medicine was his passion and his way to serve God's call in his life.

Ordained as a Deacon and an Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Richard's faith in God was unshakable. Music was his spiritual language, and he enjoyed adding his mellow tenor voice to several church choirs. Richard sang hymns on his way to the office early each morning.

Richard was a member of Rotary International for decades, becoming a Paul Harris Fellow as he sought to live the Rotary Four Way Test. He was a member of the League of Women Voters-Hill Country Texas and active with the Guadalupe Gathering at Mo-Ranch. Photography was Richard's favorite hobby. He treasured his photography trips with his good friends in the Houston Inter-Loop Photography Club.

Richard's infectious spirit and sharp wit were a joy to all who knew him, and he will be missed.

Richard married Nancy Everhart in May 1969. Their children are Evan McCarroll Johnson and Meredith Gray Johnson Stuart.

Richard and Marguerite (Meg) D. Scott married in 2004. In 2006 they moved to Kerrville where Richard continued his private practice of medicine. With the realities of his Parkinson's Disease setting in, Richard and Meg returned to Houston where they retired in 2021.

Richard is survived by his wife Marguerite (Meg) Scott-Johnson; his brother, Philip McCarroll Johnson (Lynn); and by children Evan Johnson (Lori), Meredith Stuart (Bradley), and Christine Gensch (Scott). His beloved grandchildren are Richard Benjamin Johnson III, Andrew Longino Johnson, Claire Everhart Johnson, Persephone Gray Stuart, Brigid Violet Stuart, William Scott Gensch, and Calum Michael Gensch. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother James Noble Johnson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials or donations may be made to St. Philip Presbyterian Church of Houston, Houston Area Parkinson's Society, Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly, the First Presbyterian Church of Kerrville.