



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

FEBRUARY 7, 2025

A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

IN MEMORY OF

RICHARD HARRY HOWARD

SEPTEMBER 4, 1942—JANUARY 17, 2025

PRELUDE

Prelude from *Suite in F Major*

Arcangelo Corelli
(1653–1713)

OPENING SENTENCES

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

✠ **HYMN 39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

✠ **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 Dick,
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

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Colossians 3:12-17
Romans 8:31-39

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

VOLUNTARY

Vocalise

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873–1943)

SERMON

✦ HYMN 821 *My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing?)*

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*

✦ COMMENDATION

✦ BLESSING

✦ RECESSIONAL *Amazing Grace*

*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. Omar Rouchon

Matthew Dirst, organist
Lance Laster, trombonist
Justin Langham, trumpeter
Kelley Fair, piper



RICHARD HARRY HOWARD left this world on January 17, 2025 at 9:33 p.m. in the evening surrounded by those he loved. Dick was born in Binghamton, New York growing up in Endwell, New York. His parents were Dr. James Henry Howard and Lunetta Arlene Bouton Howard. He was always academically and musically skilled, playing the trombone in Endwell Junior High School and in Union Endicott High School. He was in the county band, the marching band, and the concert band in high school.

His father and brother were in veterinary medicine, but he picked chemistry. He selected Bucknell University in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. While there he participated in the Bucknell Symphonic and Marching Band and was the cadet Director of ROTC military band. Dick was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity; he maintained friendships with those gentlemen throughout his life. After Bucknell, he attended Purdue University for a masters in chemical engineering.

Soon after being employed at GE he received an invitation from the US Army because the Vietnam War was in progress. He was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the US Army Chemical Corp 1966-1968 and was stationed at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey where he was given responsibility for TNT for the US Army, making many trips to the Pentagon and to manufacturing sites around the United States and Canada at the age of 24.

After he bid farewell to the army he took employment at Exxon; he was there for thirty-one years. He was in Exxon Research and Development at Schenectady, NY and at Florham Park, NJ. He was at Exxon Chemical Company from 1972 to 1999 with various assignments, including Baton Rouge and France. He retired at 58 on the eve of Exxon becoming ExxonMobil.

He was a member and officer in Space City Ski Club, Texas Ski Council, and Texas Association of Single Sailors. He married Sue Shirley-Howard in November 1993, and they created an adventurous life together, forming a company called Impulsive Travelers. They took friends skiing and biking in Europe over twenty-five years. Dick liked to windsurf and golf. He took Sue scuba diving, hiking, and backpacking. He was an avid musician. He was an active Presbyterian his whole life and was very active in the life of St. Philip Presbyterian Church, where he was an elder and served on numerous committees. He was on the board of directors of the Houston International Seafarer Ministry from 2010 to the present.

Dick and Sue created many scholarships with the help of Exxon Matching program. At Bucknell University his scholarship supported chemical and medical engineering and at the University of Houston several scholarships were created supporting speech/language pathology and Tier One Scholars.

Donations in his honor may be made to St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston International Seafarers, The Richard H. Howard Scholarship at Bucknell University, Development Office, 301 Market St., Lewisburg, PA 17837 or a university of your choice.

Dick is survived in death by his wife Sue Ann Lebel Shirley-Howard; his step-son C. William Shirley and Bill's partner Mary Diane Longshore; his brother Dr. David James Howard; his nieces Christine Marie Howard Minton and Andrea Lauren Howard Shields, plus multiple nieces and nephews around the country.