

+Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

+GRACE AND GREETING

Dr. John Robbins

+HYMN

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dr. Robbins

**God of love, we thank you  
for all with which you have blessed us even to this day:  
for the gift of joy in days of health and strength  
and for the gifts of your abiding presence  
and promise in days of pain and grief.  
We praise you for home and friends,  
and for our baptism and place in your church  
with all who have faithfully lived and died.  
We are grateful for Brent,  
who blessed our lives and who now lives with you.  
Above all else we thank you for Jesus,  
who knew our griefs, who died our death  
and rose for our sake and who lives and prays for us. Amen.**

PSALTER Psalm 139:11-14

Dr. Jeffery Hampton

If I say, “Let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night,”  
**even the darkness is not dark to you,  
the night is bright as the day;  
for darkness is as light with you.**  
For it was you who formed my inward parts,  
**you knit me together in my mother’s womb.**  
I praise you, for you are fearful and wonderful.  
**Wonderful are your works! You know me very well.**

PERSONAL WITNESSES

Taylor Adams, Peyton Adams, Tai Renaud, Jon Alpert,  
Lieutenant Colonel Brian Mason, Derek Brown

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 40:28-31  
1 Corinthians 13:4-6  
+ Matthew 5:4

Jim Kelly  
Matt Bell  
Hayden McCarty

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

Rev. Kathleen McMurray

SOLO

“Amazing Grace”

Bonnie Montgomery

PASTORAL PRAYER AND COMMENDATION

The Lord be with you.

Rev. McMurray

**And also with you.**

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 forever. Amen.**

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Apostles’ Creed”

Jim Kelly

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

\*universal

+HYMN

“I’ll Fly Away”

**Some glad morning when this life is o’er, I’ll fly away;  
to a home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away.**

Refrain:

**I’ll fly away, O glory,  
I’ll fly away.  
When I die, hallelujah, by and by,  
I’ll fly away.**

**When the shadows of this life have gone, I’ll fly away;  
like a bird from prison bars has flown, I’ll fly away. Refrain**

**Just a few more weary days and then, I’ll fly away;  
to a land where joys shall never end, I’ll fly away. Refrain**

+BENEDICTION

Dr. Robbins

+POSTLUDE

*Please remain standing as the family recesses. The family will greet friends in the Great Hall.*

**Clergy:** Rev. Kathleen McMurray, Pastor, Connecting Ministries

Dr. John Robbins, Senior Pastor

Dr. Jeffery B. Hampton, Pastor, Caring & Families

**Pianist:** Stanley Cox

**Soloist:** Bonnie Montgomery

**Altar Guild:** Billie Rutherford, Marsha Allbritton, Kathy Roberts, Elise Argue, Delena Rose, Judy Irwin, Marylee  
Robinson, Jennie Cole, Gay Wyatt, Jan Hundley, Mary Ruth Price-Brown, Nancy Banks, Mary Boyce

**Ushers:** Jan Sullivan, Nancy Archer, Lee Archer, Boo Jennings, Jesse Gibson, Darlette Ellis, Geoff Gwinn,  
Helen Buchanan, Arline Jackson, Sylvia Borchert

**Pallbearers:** Matt Bell, James Sophon Chin, Jason Gillen, Jeff Newton, Christof Putzel, Derek Schaffer

**Brent Renaud:** a loving son, brother, uncle, friend and an award-winning documentary filmmaker was killed March 13, 2022.

In a personal letter to the Renaud family, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote: "A talented and brave journalist, Brent lost his life while documenting human tragedy, devastation and suffering of the millions of Ukrainians".

Renaud, 50, was born on Oct. 2, 1971, in Memphis and grew up in Little Rock, AR where he graduated from Hall High School. His years growing up in Arkansas developed his love and appreciation for Arkansas and the history of the state. He wanted to maintain his presence in Little Rock to be close to family, so Brent decided the best solution was to have an office in both Little Rock and New York.

Renaud received his undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University and a master's degree from Columbia University. While in New York in the late 1990s, he began working with John Alpert at the Downtown Community Television Center where he learned the art of filmmaking and began producing documentaries.

Brent was a low-key man with a wry smile, passionate about his work but very devoted to his family. He became a father-figure to his two nephews after their father died. He took them on college tours, paid for their summer programs, attended their sporting events and school graduations, and even invited them on filming trips.

"Brent used to say: 'Everyone has to have at least one cool uncle and one creepy uncle,'" said his nephew Taylor Adams, a Navy helicopter pilot who recently returned from a deployment. "So, naturally, he tried to stake his claim as creepy uncle by sending us pictures of his face much too close to the camera with his hair resembling Einstein's. But he couldn't ever shake the fact that he was truly cool, caring, loving, and devoted. On off-road trucking trips, he let my brother and I sit in the front seat when we weren't old enough yet (and told us not to let Mom know)...There will always be a hole in my heart."

Nephew Peyton Adams, now enrolled in the Navy Rescue Swimmers School, accompanied his uncle on a film trip to the mountains of Peru where Renaud stole a pair of Peyton's socks to use as gloves after insisting it wouldn't be very cold on the trip.

Brent was funny, generous, curious, playful and humble with a heart as big as his passions. He had an innate ability to communicate with anyone and everyone. Although a man of few words, he would open his heart and mind to help others. Craig and Mami Renaud remember Brent as an incredible uncle to their son Tai Renaud. "Their bond was special, he would do anything for Tai." Craig added, "He will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the best documentary filmmakers to ever pick up a camera. But I'll remember him most as my brother and best friend. I will miss him terribly."

To unwind, Renaud enjoyed seeing live bands and even caught a show at The Brooklyn Bowl the night before he left for Ukraine. A childhood friend, Jeremy Levy said, "It was 'typical Brent style' to catch a favorite band the night before he left for a war zone, thinking nothing of it."

Brent had been working for more than a year on a film about refugees and migrants fleeing violence. He was shot while filming Ukrainians trying to escape the Russian attacks.

Juan Arredondo, a video journalist traveling with Renaud, a native of Columbia, was severely wounded in the attack. From his hospital bed in Lviv, Arredondo told Brent's mother in Little Rock, AR: "Brent was professionally demanding, and as a friend, he was kind and encouraging, and he pushed me to become a better professional." He also recalled that when they met in 2018 Brent "shows up at my apartment one night and says, 'I lost my keys. Can I crash with you? And by the way, I have my dog, Chai, with me.'"

It was classic Brent, and his family said he always had Chai with him. He had a soft spot for animals, especially Chai who was his constant companion. When Brent was hiking, camping or working on his vintage motorcycles, Chai was there. He would drive to Little Rock from New York, so Chai did not have to endure an airplane ride. Brent rescued Chai, or shall we say, Chai rescued Brent.

Brent, with his younger brother Craig, co-founded Renaud Brothers, a small film company that won many national and international awards for their documentaries about human suffering around the world. They also co-founded 501 Films, the Little Rock Film Festival and the Arkansas Motion Picture Institute. They made films for HBO, NBC, Discovery, PBS, The New York Times, VICE News and others. "Last Chance High," an eight-part series for VICE Media won a Peabody Award, the most prestigious prize filmmakers can achieve.

Through John Alpert, the brothers formed a lasting bond with another young reporter, Christof Putzel, who frequently was the face and voice of their projects exploring the lives of the least fortunate. Together they won a DuPont-Columbia Award for "Arming the Cartels". When Putzel learned of his close friend's death, he told GBH Boston: "Brent had courage like nobody I've ever seen, yet at the same time had this heart to go in where he knew he was needed, and he was so incredibly careful and focused...I don't know many people who can do that."

Jeff Newton, another close friend and colleague of Brent said, "Brent was a quiet, humble, brilliant, kind and a hardworking filmmaker. His life's body of work shone a spotlight on the people who needed it most. He did it with a relentless passion, driven by his genuine love for humanity. The work is less without him."

Newton captured the essence of Brent on PBS. He said that Brent's reaction to all the attention would be, "Thank you, that is enough, please turn the camera back on the people".

Renaud is survived by his parents Georgann Freasier (Ben Freasier), Louis Renaud; brother Craig Renaud (Mami Renaud); sister Michele Renaud Purifoy (Phil Purifoy); step-sisters: Leslie Stolzer (Mike Stolzer), Leesa Freasier, Laura McCarty (Melissa Christopher); nephews: Taylor Adams (Taylor Walker-Adams), Peyton Adams, Taiyo Renaud; step-nephews: Philip Purifoy, William Purifoy, Landon Friend, Hayden McCarty, Zach Stolzer and Jacob Stolzer ; step-nieces: Katlee Taylor-Freasier, Caylann Stolzer.

The family asks that memorial donations be made to The Brent Renaud Journalism Foundation: P.O. Box 7788, Little Rock, AR 72217. Arrangements are under the direction of RuebelFuneralHome.com

# *A Service of Resurrection and Thanksgiving to God for Brent Renaud*



**PULASKI  
HEIGHTS**  
United Methodist Church

Little Rock, Arkansas

Saturday, March 26, 2022 | 1:00 P.M.