Celebration of Life



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Ira Clayborn “Clay” Rogers
December 10, 1955– July 11, 2026

Grave Side Memorial Service of Committal
For
Ira Clayborn Rogers
Friday, August 7, 2026
9:30 am

Prelude Bagpipe Music

Pastor Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the source of all mercy
and the God of all consolation,
who comforts us in all our sorrows
so that we can comfort others in their sorrows
with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor When we were baptized in Christ Jesus,
we were baptized into his death.
We were buried therefore with him
by baptism into death,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live a new life.
For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Pastor In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen**

Readings of the Word

Pastor I called to the Lord in my distress; the Lord answered by setting me free. It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in flesh. It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in rulers.
I was pressed so hard that I almost fell, but the Lord came to my help. There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"
I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.
Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord. "This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter." *(Psalm 118:5, 8-9, 13, 15-17, 19-20)*

Pastor For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh I shall see God. *(Job 19:25-26)*

Pastor None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. *(Romans 14:7-8)*

Pastor "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord; "he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." *(John 11:25-26a)*

Pastor Let us pray:
Almighty God, by the death and burial of Jesus, your anointed, you have destroyed death and sanctified the graves of all your saints. Keep our brother, Clay, whose cremains we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints and, at the last, raise him up to share with all your faithful people the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All **Amen**

Song of Reflection "Going Home" on Bagpipe

Readings of the Word

Lector A Reading from Romans, the 8th chapter.

8**31** What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who
is against us? **32** He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up
for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything
else? **33** Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who
justifies. **34** Who is to condemn? It is Christ[t] who died, or rather, who
was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes
for us. **35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction
or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?
37 No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him
who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor
angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor
powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will
be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Here ends the reading.

Pastor 28 [1]After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary
Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. [2]And suddenly
there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending
from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. [3]His
appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. [4]For
fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. [5]But the
angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are
looking for Jesus who was crucified. [6]He is not here; for he has been
raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. [7]Then go quickly
and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed
he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my
message for you." [8]So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great
joy, and ran to tell his disciples. [9]Suddenly Jesus met them and said,
"Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and
worshiped him. [10]Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and
tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." *(Matthew
28:1-10)*

Homily

Pastor In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brother,

Ira Clayborn Rogers,

and we commit his cremains to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him. The Lord make his face shine on him and be gracious to him. The Lord look upon him with favor and give him ✠ peace. May the Lord receive Clay into God's peace and raise him up on the last day.

Pastor As family and friends gathered in thanksgiving to God and holy remembrance of Clay. let us pray.

Lord Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of death. Grant to us, your servants, so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake in your likeness; to you, the author and giver of life, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

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 and ever. Amen.

Pastor Rest eternal grant Clay, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Pastor 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 forever and ever.

All **Amen**

Caring for the Grave

You are invited to join in the refilling of the grave as a loving act. As the grave is refilled, we serve to lovingly care for Clay who has fallen asleep in the Lord until the Day of the Lord. Just as we would lovingly tuck in a beloved child to bed, so here we do the same for Clay, a beloved child of God

Sending Song "Amazing Grace" Bagpipe music

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Serving today

Rev. Richard A. Rhoades, Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Galveston

Stephanie Frye, Lector

Stanley Fontenot, Piper



Ira Claborn Rogers, a beloved and respected resident of Galveston, Texas, passed away at his home on July 11, 2026. Born on December 10, 1955, in Beaumont, Texas, he was the younger of two children in a close-knit and loving family. The values he absorbed in his early years—family, friendship, and hard work—became the cornerstones of a life lived with purpose and dedication.

Clay graduated from Forest Park High School in 1974 and then went on to obtain a degree in accounting at Louisiana State University. After establishing himself as a Certified Public Accountant, he furthered his education, earning his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1990 from the University of Houston Law Center. He went on to build a distinguished career as a corporate attorney in Houston, practicing for over 30 years.

It was in Houston that Clay met his beloved husband, Fred Huddleston. Together, they made a life in Galveston, where they were active pillars of the community, both at First Lutheran Church of Galveston as well as the Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF). Clay's commitment to preserving history was evident through his volunteer work at GHF, where he most recently served as president.

Clay lived his life with integrity and purpose, whether in his relationships with family and friends or through his professional work. Those who knew him

remember him as a true gentleman—a man of character, generosity, and warmth, with a spirit that was as kind as it was humorous.

He is survived by his sister, Linda Harris, and her husband, Charles Harris, of Dallas; his cousin, Patrick Bobbitt, and his husband, André Vifian, of Switzerland; as well as many cherished friends like Greg Grant and Ajay Puthli, his god son, Charlie Frye, and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his devoted husband of many years, Fred Huddleston.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to GHF or the charity of your choice.