

## Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,[a]  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.*

*Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.*



For years Ed wore this bracelet all the time and only took it off when absolutely necessary. Because it was unusual and looked like fishing lures, people would ask him about it. When he told them that it was a bracelet called “Fishers of Men,” it provided him an opening to talk about what that represented and talk about his own faith. It was very important to him and no matter what, he had a conversation starter.

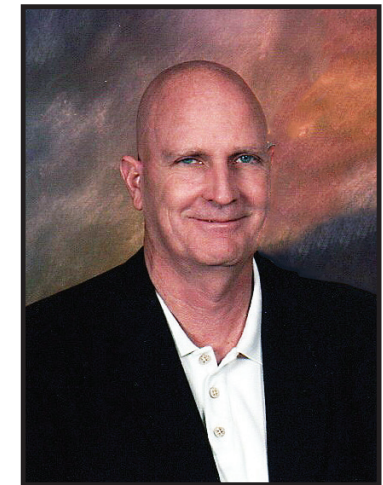
### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Online at [firstprescos.org/watch](https://firstprescos.org/watch)  
Sanctuary: 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Center: 9:30 a.m.



## *Service to Celebrate the Life of Edward Thomas Springer*

*March 8, 1951 – April 27, 2020*



Friday, July 31, 2020 • 10:30 a.m.  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

# *Order of Service*

## **Prelude**

## **Call to Worship**

## **Psalm 23**

## **Prayer of Invocation**

**Solo,** *“When Peace Like a River”*

## **Remembering Ed With Gratitude to God**

Mary Ann Springer, Paul Springer

## **Prayer of Thanks**

**Solo,** *“I Can Only Imagine”*

## **Remembering the Ressurrection**

2 Corinthians 5:1–10

**Solo,** *“Amazing Grace”*

## **Prayer of Commendation**

## **Benediction**

## **Military Honors**

## **Postlude**

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Officiants: Rev. Dr. John Goodale  
Organist/Pianist: Dr. Roderick Gorby  
Soloist: Ms. Rachel Smith  
Coordinator: Rev. Linda Boyles

Edward Thomas Springer was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Charles P. (Phil) and Vena (Hershberger) Springer. He moved several times as a child and had fun stories for each location in which he lived. He was inquisitive and busy as a child and looked for the best in everything. After living in Fort Worth, Texas, Salina, Kansas, Albuquerque, New Mexico, New Orleans and Slidell, Louisiana, his family landed in Wichita, Kansas, where he graduated from Wichita East High School.

Because Ed always needed to work, he had his first job as a paperboy in Slidell and went through numerous bikes due to the number of papers he delivered. He spoke of delivering them in rainy conditions including a couple of hurricanes. He had a lifelong interest in all things automotive and honed that interest even more while in high school, where he studied auto body. He owned several cars but spoke most fondly of his beloved ‘56 Chevy. While in high school he worked in a gas station where he learned about cars and running a business. He also worked in a body shop and at Cessna.

Upon graduation, Ed joined the Air National Guard and learned to work on airplanes. After he completed training, he joined his family who had moved to San Antonio, and worked in a gas station and a machine shop. He then lived in Wichita again where he worked at Learjet. After Wichita, he moved with his family to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, where he was a shipbuilder at Ingall’s Ship Yard, building ships in the Spruance class. While in Ocean Springs, he became interested in law enforcement and was hired by the police department there.

During that time, he became ill with a brain tumor and was unable to walk, which ended that career as well as his Air National Guard career. He was treated with surgery and radiation but still had to learn how to walk and find a new profession. After learning to walk again, Ed went to nursing school at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he met Debbi and they wed nine months later while still in school.

After graduation, Ed entered the Army as a nurse but still wanted to return to the Air Force. He was trained as an O.R. Nurse at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. Two years later, he transferred back to the USAF and stayed until he retired. While in the Air Force he was assigned to numerous places, including Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, Alaska, and Wilford Hall at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas.

He completed his masters in Health Care Administration shortly before the birth of their son, Andrew. A few months later the family moved to Misawa, Japan, where he was in charge of opening the new hospital. They loved Japan and spent as much time as possible exploring the country.

Ed was assigned again to Lackland’s Wilford Hall, where he ultimately became commander of Wilford Hall’s Enlisted squadron, which at that time was the largest squadron in the Air Force. After his retirement from the Air Force, he was Director of Surgical Services at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, at Parkview Medical Center in Pueblo, Colorado, at Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center in San Antonio, and at Golden Ridge Surgery Center in Golden Colorado.

Ed was passionate about nursing and used his skills as a volunteer in Ocean Springs after Hurricane Katrina, and in Haiti after that country’s devastating earthquake.

Ed is survived by his wife, Debbi; son, Andrew; older brother, John (Susan) Springer; sister, Mary Ann Springer; younger brother, Paul (Michelle) Springer; maternal aunts, Phyllis (Don) Swigart, Sonia (Frank) Geasa, and Sara Ellis; four nephews, one niece, three great-nephews, two great-nieces, and multiple cousins.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Pikes Peak Hospice or First Presbyterian Church.