



**Celebration of Life
and
Witness to the Resurrection**



James Alton McCurdy
April 21, 1942 ~ January 15, 2024



Prelude

O God Beyond All Praising

Gustav Holst
Suk Choi, Organist

John 14: 1 - 3

Welcome

Pastor Jim Szeyller

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 40: 28 - 31

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Romans 6: 3 - 5

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

Opening Prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley & John Zundel
#558 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

*Love divine all loves excelling
Joy of heaven to earth come down
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling
All Thy faithful mercies crown
Jesus Thou art all compassion
Pure unbounded love Thou art
Visit us with Thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart*

*Breathe O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast
Let us all in Thee inherit
Let us find the promised rest
Take away the love of sinning
Alpha and Omega be
End of faith as its beginning
Set our hearts at liberty*

*Finish then Thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee
Changed from glory into glory
Till in heaven we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before Thee
Lost in wonder love and praise*

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

First Lesson

Psalm 139: 1 - 14

Pew Bible, pp. 577 - 578

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

Remembrance of Family & Friends

Mark Montgomery
Sara McCurdy
Jim Szeyller

Anthem

There Is a Balm in Gilead
Afro-American Spiritual
Carol Stocksdale, Solo

Second Lesson

Romans 8: 31 - 39

Pew Bible, pp. 158 - 159

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, 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 Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors 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.

Homily

Hymn

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Anonymous
#561

*I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk let me walk close to Thee*

*Just a closer walk with thee
Grant it Jesus is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be dear Lord let it be*

*Through this world of toil and snares
If I falter Lord who cares
Who with me my burden shares
None but Thee dear Lord none but Thee*

*Just a closer walk with thee
Grant it Jesus is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be dear Lord let it be*

*When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more
Guide me gently safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore to Thy shore*

*Just a closer walk with thee
Grant it Jesus is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be dear Lord let it be*

Pastoral Prayer & 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.*

Closing Hymn

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisolm
#60

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

Chorus:

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

(Chorus)

Pardon for sin
And a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence
To cheer and to guide
Strength for today
And bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine
With ten thousand beside

(Chorus)

Benediction

Postlude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
J. S. Bach

James Alton McCurdy
April 21, 1942 – January 15, 2024

In loving memory of Jim McCurdy, 81, who passed away on Monday, January 15, 2024, at Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo, CA. Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Sara, his children whom he adored, Katie, Lisa (Mark), Krisi (Jeff), Robbie, David (Mary), and Larry, his brother, Pete, nephews, Jim and David, his nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Jim was born to Pete and Kathryn McCurdy in Washington D.C. When he was 13 his family moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico. He graduated from Highland High School in 1960 where he excelled in football, field and track and baseball. Throughout his life Jim enjoyed athletics. He was an excellent golfer.

After graduation from the University of New Mexico with a bachelor's in mechanical engineering Jim accepted a position with Douglas Aircraft Company as an Engineer in the DC9 Flight Testing Department. In 1967 Jim was employed by United Airlines where he enjoyed a 37-year career as a Commercial Airline Pilot. Captain McCurdy flew domestic and international flights on everything from the DC6 to 747's.

Much of Jim's adult life was lived in Laguna Niguel, CA with his wife Sara and where they lovingly reared their daughter, Katie. His life centered around family, friends, and involvement in his faith community at Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Church. When Sara went into ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church, Jim went with her serving along side in several congregations. He was a loving and devoted husband – a fun life companion who will be greatly missed.

Jim will be remembered for his gracious, engaging personality. He had an amazing sense of humor and quick wit. He loved making family and friends laugh and laugh they did. To the end he read the L.A. Times and worked the daily crossword and sudoku puzzles. He had a smile that could light up a room and gave the very best hugs ever. Jim's strength of character, his love, his hugs, his humor will be greatly missed.

*Thank you for joining us to celebrate
Jim's life. The family deeply
appreciates your love and prayers.*

*We look forward to greeting you at the
Reception in Gard Hall following the service.*

Laguna Niguel
Presbyterian
CHURCH

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