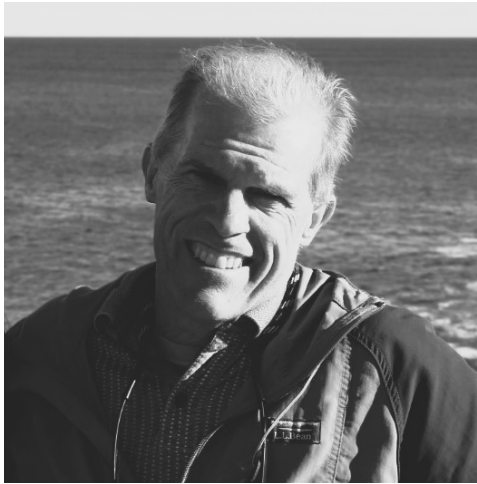


Celebration of Life

May 11, 2024

James Edward Partridge

March 15, 1957 – April 26, 2024



*"Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."
Psalm 73: 25-26*

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,
for he who promised is faithful."
Hebrews 10:23*

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for the service today. If you are new, we would love to meet you! Please contact us at **office@cityreformed.org**. If you would like to contact a pastor, please email **nameun@cityreformed.org**. And, if you would like more information about our ministries, resources, and ways to engage, please visit our website: **cityreformed.org**.

About Us

Church Office

3929 Coleman St.

Pittsburgh, PA 15207

412-720-7014

office@cityreformed.org

cityreformed.org

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship: II Corinthians 4:7-18

Please stand for the Call to Worship, if you are able.

L: But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

P: We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

L: Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

P: always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

L: For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

P: So death is at work in us, but life in you.

L: Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak,

P: Knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.

L: For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

P: So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

L: For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.

P: For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Prayer

Abide With Me

(Words: Henry Francis Lyte 1847; Music: Justin Smith 2007)

Abide with me
Fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens
Lord with me abide
When other helpers
Fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, abide with me

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile
And though rebellious
And perverse meanwhile
Thou hast not left me
Though I oft left Thee
On to the close Lord, abide with me

I need Thy presence, every passing hour
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death?
Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me

Call to Confession: *Isaiah 55:1-5*

*¹Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!*

*Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.*

*²Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.*

*³Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.*

*I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.*

*⁴See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.*

*⁵Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor.*

Prayer of Confession

Father, we hunger for many things. We bring our needs to you and trust you to provide the bread we need each day. Calm our fears, protect us from evil, strengthen us in doubt, relieve our burdens, heal our diseases. But as we receive these gifts from you, help us to see you more clearly. May we desire not only to receive your gifts, but to know the giver. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: *Isaiah 55:6-7*

*⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.*

*⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.*

*Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.*

Christ is Mine Forevermore

(Words & Music: Jonny Robinson & Rich Thompson 2015)

Mine are days that God has numbered
I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure
And forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer
Though I fall, His love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing
I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow
Darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel
Where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace that flows from Heaven
And the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted
Christ completes his work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger
Pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter
Harm and hatred for His name
But mine is armour for this battle
Strong enough to last the war
And He has said He will deliver
Safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore

Bridge:

Come rejoice now, O my soul
For His love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure
Christ is mine forevermore
(Repeat 4x)

And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore *(Repeat)*

Family Reflections

Remembrances

“A Light Shines” by Carolyn Hampson (see poem & illustration on p. 9)

Psalm 131

Homily: *More Like Jesus* – Reverend Matt Koerber

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. – II Corinthians 3:17-18

1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. – II Corinthians 5:1-5

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

(Words & Music: Sandra McCracken 2015)

Chorus:

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord, our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up

(Chorus)

In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength

(Chorus)

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful One
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom

(Chorus)

Benediction

A Light Shines

by Carolyn Hampson

*It stands on the rocky edge
Its pose stately and lone
Giving brave seafarers its pledge
To bring them safely home*

*It points out to the deep, black sea
Blazing steadily through the night
So the lost can find sound entry
Fixing their eyes on the light*

*A beacon in the darkness
When wind and waves surround
It carries the light amidst bleakness
Where boats may run aground*

*The essence of this tall guidepost
Is sincerely captured in you
Both remain firm on the coast
Though violent tempests ensue*

*You are a stalwart tower
Shining bright for all to see
Awake in that cold, dark hour
Standing firm and fearlessly*

*But the Truth behind this image
Is the Light overlooking the storm
For it offers all Safe Passage
To Harbor secure and warm*

*He is our only Relief
A Hopeful Beam on high
All assaults in the end but brief
Indeed — Peace! Be still! His cry*

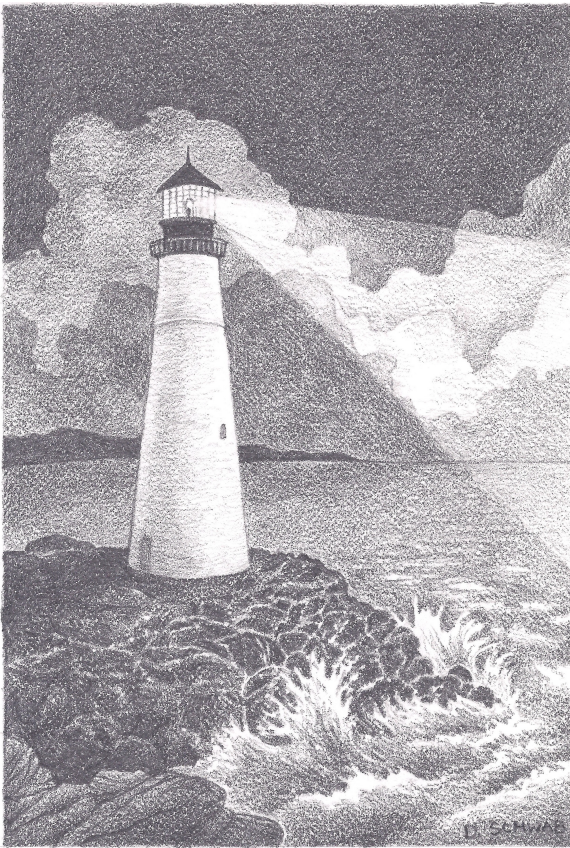


Illustration by Debbie Schwab

There is much I can say about our life together, but I will leave that to conversations over the coming months and years with you as we remember Jim and how he has influenced so many of us. I cherish these memories and look with joy at pictures of all we have done together. As I reflect on the last 41 years we have had together as husband and wife, our wedding vows come to mind. I am struck as to how we – and specifically Jim – has so purposefully fulfilled these vows.

So, I just want to say to all of you that Jim has fulfilled his vows to me and to the Lord. I am blessed and will greatly miss him. My hope and prayer is that I will continue seek the Lord in the community He places me and that our home will continue to be a refuge to many. I believe the Lord has, indeed, said to Jim, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (Matthew 25:21). I look forward to rejoicing with Jim again in eternity.

Tracy Partridge

Wedding Vows
Jim & Tracy Partridge
August 20, 1983

Jim: *"Tracy, by the grace of God and with His strength, I promise to be a loving and tender husband, supporting and encouraging you in your vocation, your gifts and talents and in your daily walk with the Lord Jesus. I pledge to provide effective and Christ-like leadership in our home and marriage, avoiding an insensitive or domineering spirit. Your physical, emotional and spiritual needs shall be of the greatest concern to me as I learn to understand and meet them, with God's help. I will be receptive to your ideas and counsel and grateful for your abundant love. With these vows I promise to be your lawfully wedded husband, so long as God grants me life with you on earth."*

Tracy: *"Jim, I love you, and I promise to honor and respect you throughout the life which God has given us. I do pledge to submit to your leadership, as we are called to submit to Christ. I pray that God might teach me through His grace, to understand you, support you, and encourage you in your work, activities, and daily walk with Christ. It is with these vows, in the presence of these witness, that I pledge to be your lawfully wedded wife, to love, serve, and respect you, as long a God grants me life with you on earth.*

Together: *"Before God and His people, we dedicate ourselves together to see His kingdom in the community where He places us. As stewards of His blessings, we commit ourselves to demonstrate hospitality in our home and to show His love to any and all with a generous spirit."*

Light refreshments are available in the cafeteria after the service.

Please sign one of the memory books located in the foyer.
There are blank pages for children to draw a picture
or write a note to Mrs. Partridge (Mrs. P).