

Celebration of Life



GARY LESLIE HICKS

March 8, 1954 – January 23, 2021

January 30, 2021

Brook Hill United Methodist Church
8946 Indian Springs Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Officiants

Rev. Linda Warehime, Rev. Dana Werts

A Service Celebrating the Life of

Gary Hicks

March 8, 1954 – January 23, 2021

Gathering Music

Margie Brubaker

Words of Grace and Greeting

Pastor Dana Werts

Opening Prayer

Pastor Linda Warehime

Hymn "It Is Well With My Soul"

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

(Refrain)

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

(Refrain)

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.

(Refrain)

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, Music: Philip P. Bliss, Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE

Eulogy

Gary Rollins

"A Pastor Walks into a Bar"

Tim Leber

Scripture: Philippians 4: 8-9 (The Message)

Teri Kwiatek

Reflections

Pastor Dana

Scripture Romans 8: 35, 37-39 (NRSV)

Lance Barbe

Message "The Gift Goes On"

Pastor Linda

Special Music "Hymn of Welcome" (written by Gary Hicks) - sung by Ben and Jillian Trawick

Commendation

Closing Prayer (in unison)

Holy God, we are so thankful for your gift of the life of Gary/Papa. Thank you for what he has meant to each of us. We mourn our loss deeply but celebrate his journey home to you where all suffering is over. We rejoice in the great faith, hope, love and music that have been showered on us by Gary. We also give you thanks for your Son, Jesus Christ whose life, death and resurrection made his homecoming to you a reality. May we live in that hope of eternal life and be comforted by your presence in our lives.

Sustain and nurture us now with your comforting Spirit so that we will not be overwhelmed with grief. Let our memories and love for one another as family and friends hold us together in the times ahead. All this we pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn "Marching to Zion"

Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord,
join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion,
the beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King,
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad,
may speak their joys abroad.

(Refrain)

The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
before we reach the heavenly fields,
or walk the golden streets,
or walk the golden streets.
(Refrain)

Then let our songs abound,
and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high,
to fairer worlds on high.
(Refrain)

Author: Isaac Watts, 1707; Composer: Robert Lowry, 1867

Benediction

Pastor Mike Brubaker

A private committal service will follow the service at Brook Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers include: Gary Rollins, Patrick Rollins, Jeffery Rollins, Josiah Tindor, Caleb Tindor, Samuel Tindor.

Pastor Gary's "Prayer for Life"

I will try this day to live a simple, sincere and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity, and self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence; exercising economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust, and a childlike faith in God.

In particular I will try to be faithful in those habits of prayer, work, study, physical exercise, eating, and sleep which I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me to be right.

And as I cannot in my own strength do this, nor even with a hope of success attempt it, I look to thee, O Lord God my Father, in Jesus my Savior, and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Two of Gary's Special Songs -

HYMN OF WELCOME

(words: Gary Hicks, copyright 2010, Gary L. Hicks; tune: *Beach Spring*, from *The Sacred Harp*, 1844)

1. In a world so stark and broken, all alone we suffered loss
But we found a place of welcome in the circle of the cross
We have found a risen Savior, and an ever-faithful Friend
We have found a place of healing, and the will to start again.
2. You are weary from your journey, come inside and rest awhile
We will listen to your story, walk with you this lonely mile
Hospitality was given when our souls were sick and sore
So we offer you our welcome, and the Savior offers more.
3. As the widow fed Elijah from her meager store of food
And her cupboard was replenished, day by day, with all things good
So we give, with faith and purpose, knowing all will be supplied
Every need met with abundance, every hunger satisfied.
4. Father Abraham once welcomed certain angels, unaware
That among those humble trav'lers was the Lord, all hidden there
So as we all share together, in the name of Christ the Son
God is present here among us, and His Spirit makes us one.
5. What a banquet now is offered, we're invited all to come
What a welcome is extended from the Lamb upon the throne
To the homeless and the stranger, to the poor and lame and blind
Other doors may never open, but a welcome here we find.
6. We are loved and we are welcomed, what a joy is ours to share
And the Spirit's power is moving now, among us everywhere
So we serve the Lord together, and we love each other too
'Til the day of final welcome, when our Lord makes all things new.

Arise, My Soul, Arise

(Written by Charles Wesley, 1742)

- 1 Arise, my soul, arise,
shake off your guilty fears;
the bleeding Sacrifice
in my behalf appears:
before the throne my Surety stands,
before the throne my Surety stands,
my name is written on his hands.

- 2 He ever lives above,
for me to intercede,
his all-redeeming love,
his precious blood to plead;
his blood atoned for ev'ry race,
his blood atoned for ev'ry race,
and sprinkles now the throne of grace.

- 3 Five bleeding wounds he bears,
received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers,
they strongly plead for me.
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

- 4 My God is reconciled;
his pard'ning voice I hear;
he owns me for his child,
I can no longer fear;
with confidence I now draw nigh,
with confidence I now draw nigh,
and "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.

Gary Leslie Hicks died on January 23, 2021 just as he had lived-- full of courageous faith and surrounded by his family. Loving husband, father, grandfather, pastor and friend to many, his life's passion was to share Jesus' love with as many people as he possibly could.

Born March 8, 1954 in Woodstock, New Brunswick, Canada as the firstborn of Reverend Leslie Hicks and Aleen Esther Smith Hicks, Gary was soon joined by his brother Donald and later, his sister Nancy. As a boy, Gary loved music, magic tricks and making mischief behind his parents' backs.

Gary studied religion at Bethany Bible College where he enjoyed traveling with the college's music outreach teams. It was also at Bethany that he dated and married the love of his life, Constance Rollins Hicks. Together, they welcomed two daughters-- Shannon Elizabeth and Gloria Aleen. Gary was steadfast in his commitment to his family which grew to include his son-in-law Josiah and grandchildren Ramaira, Caleb, Samuel, Abigail and Steven.

Gary was ordained in the Wesleyan church in July 1980 and over the course of his ministry, he served at eight congregations in New Brunswick (Canada), New York, North Carolina and Maryland. In April 2007, Gary joined the staff of Brook Hill United Methodist church in Frederick. Serving as the pastoral liaison for the outreach committee, Gary was active in helping to coordinate and serve on multiple domestic and international mission trips.

In October 2015, Gary became the founding pastor of Downtown Christian Fellowship. A congregation that got its start meeting in a bar, DCF is open and welcoming to all. Gary spent many days and nights developing relationships with his brothers and sisters at DCF and doing his best to help meet their physical and spiritual needs. The DCF congregation was dear to Gary's heart and never far from his mind or conversation in his last days.

Gary was a talented musician and prolific songwriter. He was an accomplished piano and accordion player with a special affinity for Celtic music. He remembered fondly his days of performing with That Raucous Crew and left us with over 500 original songs and hymns.

Gary's family welcomes you to share how he impacted your life at <https://www.tribute.co/pastor-gary-hicks/> and to join them for a drive-through, no contact time of remembering Gary together at Brook Hill UMC (8946 Indian Springs Road) on Friday, January 29 from 2-5pm. Cards and letters can be dropped off at this time. Funeral services will be private. Live streaming of the service will be available at <https://www.bhumc.org/> at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 30th.

In lieu of flowers, Gary's family invites you to carry the torch of his legacy by donating to BHUMC's community mission fund. This fund helps support the ongoing work of Gary's dear friends at Downtown Christian Fellowship. Donations can be made at <https://pushpay.com/g/bhumcfrederick> (select community mission fund) or mailed to the church (community mission fund in the memo).

Arrangements are with Stauffer Funeral Home, Frederick. Expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family at www.staufferfuneralhome.com.