



Sunday, August 22, 2021 – 2:00 pm
Memorial Service for
Rev. Dr. Richard E. Hamilton
September 4, 1927 - February 22, 2021

PRELUDE *Dedication and Love for Dick and Anna Lee* Anna Briscoe

GREETING Rev. Darren Cushman Wood

CHORAL HYMN *Sing with All the Saints in Glory*

Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease;
in God's likeness we, awaking, know the everlasting peace.

O what glory, far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts, for ages pleading, never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it, there on high our welcome waits.
Every humble spirit shares it; Christ has passed th'eternal gates.

Life eternal! heaven rejoices: Jesus lives, who once was dead.
Join we now the deathless voices; child of God, lift up your head!
Patriarchs from the distant ages, saints all longing for their heaven,
prophets, psalmists, seers, and sages, all await the glory given.

Life eternal! O what wonders crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
when, amidst earth's closing thunders, saints shall stand before the throne!
O to enter that bright portal, see that glowing firmament;
know, with thee, O God Immortal, "Jesus Christ whom thou has sent!"

OPENING PRAYER Rev. Lisa Schubert Nowling

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 35 Rev. Robert A. Schilling

**Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

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

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

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

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

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

Leader: Where can I go from your spirit?

People: Or where can I flee from your presence?

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

People: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

Leader: If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night',

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

Leader: For it was you who formed my inward parts;

People: you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Leader: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

People: Wonderful are your works;

Leader: You know me very well.

People: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Leader: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

People: In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, every day, before they came into being.

Leader: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

People: I try to count them but they are more than the sand; I come to the end and I am still with you.

CHORAL HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:

Refrain: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall: [Refrain]

When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand: [Refrain]

WITNESS

David Hamilton

ANTHEM

Laudate Dominum
based on Psalm 117

W. A. Mozart
Kate Roberts, soloist
Kathleen Custer, conductor

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8

CHORAL HYMN

My Life Flows On

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Bishop Julius Trimble

All clergy are invited to stand for the prayer.

CHORAL HYMN

Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above

Come, let us join our friends above who have obtained the prize,
and on the eagle wings of love to joys celestial rise.
Let saints on earth unite to sing with those to glory gone,
for all the servants of our King in earth and heaven are one.

One family we dwell in him, one church above, beneath,
though now divided by the stream, the narrow stream of death;
one army of the living God, to his command we bow;
part of his host have crossed the flood, and part are crossing now.

Ten thousand to their endless home this solemn moment fly,
and we are to the margin come, and we expect to die.
E'en now by faith we join our hands with those that went before,
and greet the blood-besprinkled bands on the eternal shore.

Our spirits too shall quickly join, like theirs with glory crowned,
and shout to see our Captain's sign, to hear his trumpet sound.
O that we now might grasp our Guide! O that the word were given!
Come, Lord of Hosts, the waves divide, and land us all in heaven.

BENEDICTION

Bishop Julius Trimble

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Ye Now in Peace

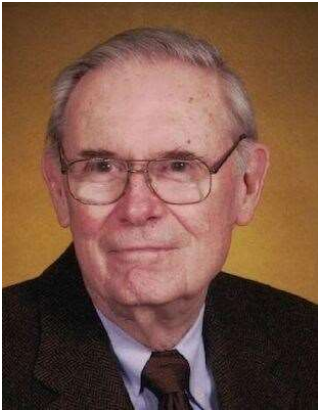
J. Eilers

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Hymn to Joy

D. Janzer
Heather Hinton

*Special thanks to John Hague for his assistance with audio visual and
to Patty Hefner for her help with visual arts.*



Rev. Dr. Richard E. (Dick) Hamilton, 93, a retired senior pastor of North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, died in his Indianapolis home on February 22, 2021. His beloved wife of more than 52 years, Anna Lee Schmidt Hamilton, died in 2005.

Rev. Hamilton was a United Methodist minister for 43 years: as founding minister of St. Mark's church in Bloomington (1954—59), and as senior pastor of St. Luke's in Indianapolis (1959—67), the Methodist Temple in Evansville (1969—74), and 23 years at North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, from which he retired in 1997. Rev. Hamilton also served two years as a district superintendent in Bloomington from 1967—69. Throughout his ministry, he and Anna Lee were true partners, as she added her exquisite musical talents and magnetic energy to the church leadership.

Rev. Hamilton answered his call to ministry as a young man. He found it "as compelling in 1997 as it had been in 1950," experiencing deep fulfillment in both pastoral care and leadership and in sermons noted for their intelligence and scholarship, as well as their humor and humanity. He comforted his parishioners—and he challenged them. He healed wounded souls and inspired imperfect humans. All toward better versions of themselves, and nudging toward Christian action for social justice, and peace, locally and around the world.

From the earliest days of his career through his retirement, he preached on living a life of service and working for justice in the community. His faith inspired his work on LGBT rights, racial justice, advocacy for the poor, health care, public education, gambling and a host of other issues. He was a leading advocate within the worldwide United Methodist Church for progress on these issues. He was proud to have attended the 1963 March on Washington for the "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His own sermon explaining his plans to attend that event was one of his finest.

Dick served on the boards of directors of DePauw University, Christian Theological Seminary, and the Martin Luther King Center, and as a member of the Indiana State Ethics Commission, the Methodist Hospital Internal Review Board, and the Peace Center, among many others. He also served as he walked -- in the Indy Pride Parade with North UMC, for neighborhood peace rallies, and daily in his manifold interactions in and around the church at 38th and Meridian Streets.

Rev. Hamilton was born in Daytona Beach, Florida, in 1927 to Rev. Frank A. Hamilton (also a Methodist minister) and Myra Jones Hamilton, who both grew up in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He grew up in Daytona Beach, Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Evansville, Indiana. Along the way he became a fine tennis player for his high school and college teams, enjoying the game into his 90th year. He graduated from DePauw University in 1949 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, and earned a divinity degree in 1952 from Drew Seminary in New Jersey.

Dick and Anna Lee met in 1948 at Trinity Methodist Church in Evansville, where his father was the pastor. They married there in 1952, moved to New York City for a year of further graduate studies at Union Theological Seminary, and then a year of study at the University of Heidelberg in Germany (theology for Dick; music for Anna Lee). That year offered a chance for wide travels in Europe, including a legendary (for the family) trip by Vespa motor scooter across the Alps and all over Italy in 1954, which hinted at their love of travel. They recreated that trip in retirement (sans Vespa!) and spoke of their deep gratitude in visiting places they had first seen together in their 20s. After the year in Germany, they returned to Indiana and began their joint career in the ministry and their family.

Rev. Hamilton is survived by three children, David F. Hamilton (Inge Van der Cruysse) of Bloomington, John M. Hamilton (Dawn Johnsen) also of Bloomington, and Elizabeth L. Hamilton (David Hensel) of Indianapolis; eight grandchildren: Janet Hamilton Petersen (Mark Petersen), Devney Hamilton (Chau Ho), Matthew Hamilton Johnsen, Eric Hamilton Johnsen, Hamilton Hensel, Harrison Hensel (Hannah Kempf Hensel), Mary Hensel, and Anna Lee Hensel; one great-grandson (Nathaniel Petersen); and his brother, Lee H. Hamilton, and Schmidt and Hamilton nephews and nieces and their children across the United States.