

A Service of
Celebration for the Life of
George Stanwood Gordon, Jr.

January 8, 1935 – August 28, 2025



Duvall Chapel, Newbury Court
Concord, Massachusetts
September 11, 2025
2:00 p.m.

A Service of Celebration for the Life of George Stanwood Gordon, Jr.

PRELUDE Medley of Hymns

Marcia Groome

WELCOME & PRAYER

Rev. Kristin Rinehimer

HYMN "For All the Saints"



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might; thou,
Stanzas 3-5 on facing page.
6 But then there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: the
7 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight; . . .

saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; the
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host, . . .



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.

King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.
sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

3 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine,
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;

we fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 soon, soon to faith - ful ser - vants com - eth rest; . . .

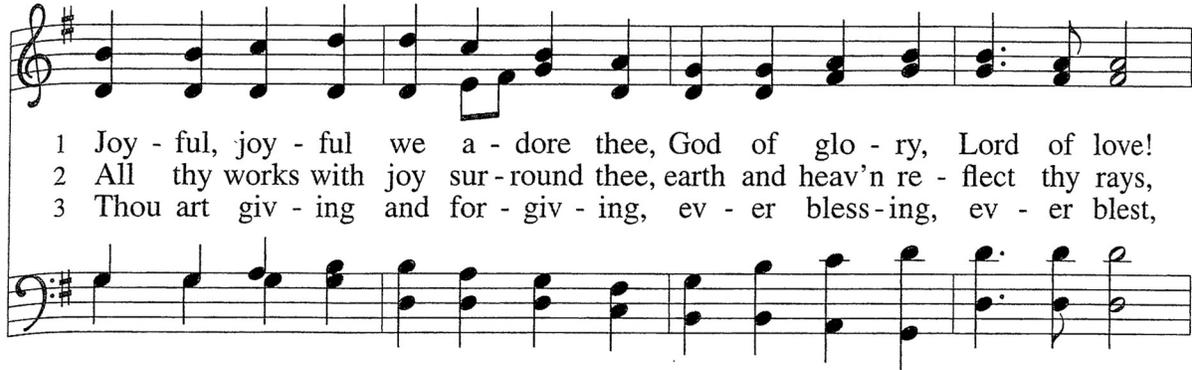
all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain and arms are strong.
 sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

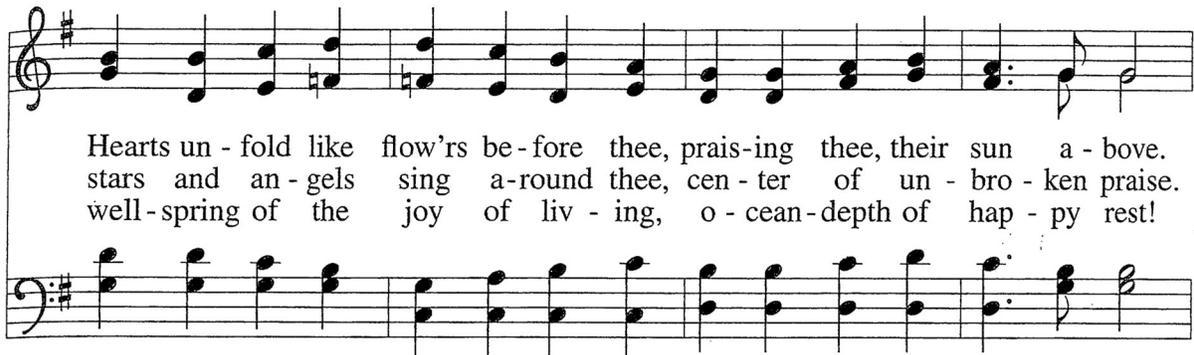
God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.”
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

HYMN

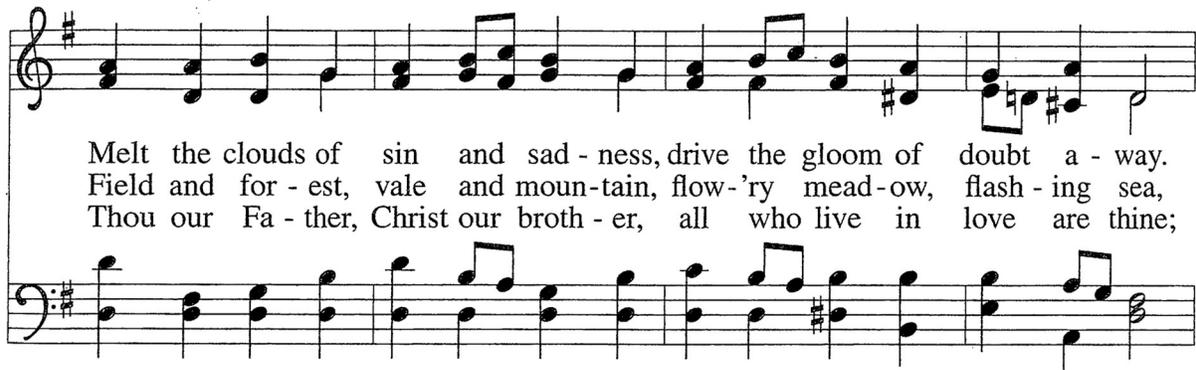
“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”



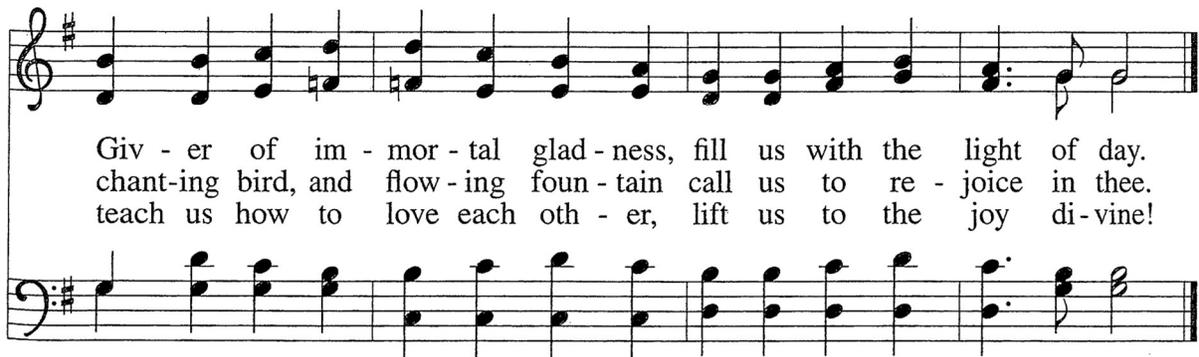
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

FAMILY REFLECTIONS

SOLO

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Kate Doucette, *granddaughter*

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:7-13 (NRSV)

Meg Doucette, *granddaughter*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-18 (NRSV)

Rev. Kristin Rinehimer

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

Rev. Kristin Rinehimer

HYMN

“God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new;



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR GEORGE:

Concluding with:

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

COMMENDATION

Rev. Gracious Moyo

Let us commend George to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant George.

Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

HYMN

“Abide With Me”

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Kristin Rinehimer

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace.

POSTLUDE

Medley of Hymns

Marcia Groome

The Gordon family warmly welcomes you to a reception
in The Great Room following today's service.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Celebrants

The Reverend Kristin Rinehimer,
Director of Spiritual Life at Newbury Court

The Reverend Gracious Moyo,
Associate Pastor at University Lutheran Church

Organist

Marcia Groome,
Organist at Duvall Chapel

George Stanwood Gordon, Jr., 90, of Concord, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully with family by his side on Thursday, August 28, 2025 following a period of declining health.

George was born in Lynn, MA on January 8, 1935 to his late parents, George Stanwood Gordon, Sr. and Alma Langille Gordon. He was a 1953 graduate of Brooks School, North Andover, MA. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1957 with a BS (Physics), from Columbia University in 1959 with an MA (Physics), and from MIT in 1962 with a PhD (Physics, Cosmic Rays).

George was active in MIT's ROTC program and served in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps at Fort McClellan in Anniston, Alabama 1962-1963, followed by six years in the U.S. Army Reserves.

George was married to Clarice (nee Barrett) Gordon of St. Paul, Minnesota for over 65 years. They raised five children in Lexington, MA and later retired to Arlington, MA and Concord, MA. He loved spending time at their summer cottage at Lake Sunapee, New Hampshire with his family and friends.

Following military service, George did post-doctoral work at MIT, and then worked at Lincoln Laboratory (Hanscom Field AFB) 1964-1976. He was on the research staff of the MIT Center for Space Research from 1977 until he retired in 1996. He worked on the MIT Plasma Scientific Investigation of the Voyager Project. Voyager I and Voyager II launched in 1977, gathered data during planetary encounters, and Voyager I is still transmitting data from interstellar space. George's skills were integral to downloading and distributing data that Voyager transmitted back to Earth, and he continued to assist with data retrieval into his retirement.

George loved to be out in nature, and spent many hours walking in the woods, birding, and after retirement took up whitewater kayaking both on New England rivers and on many trips to Chile. He travelled extensively with his parents and with his wife Clare, particularly after retirement, including a four-month cruise of southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean islands and Africa for their 50th Wedding Anniversary. George had many interests and kept reading and taking courses life-long. He loved sailing and canoeing, was a ham radio operator, held a private pilot's license, was an enthusiastic photographer of his travels and played classical guitar. George enjoyed home gardening, with a particular love of blueberries. George was an active member of University Lutheran Church, in Cambridge, MA from 1963 until his death. He had a deep faith, and enjoyed Bible Study groups and learning about other faiths. He was a kind and generous person, believing that God loves everyone equally and that we are caretakers of each other and our planet.

George was predeceased by his parents, George S. Gordon, Sr. and Alma Langille Gordon, his sister Alta Berridge and husband Frank, brothers-in-law Orville Caswell, Joseph Bournique and Philip Barrett, sister-in-law Karen Barrett, and daughter-in-law Elizabeth Gordon.

He is survived by his wife Clarice Barrett Gordon; children Kent Gordon (wife Gabrielle), Dr. Kari Doucette (husband Thomas), Glen Gordon, Wayne Gordon (wife Renyun), and Maurine Stenwick (husband Scott); grandchildren Helen Colby (husband Andrew), Margaret Doucette, Nathan Doucette, Katherine Doucette, Seren Stenwick, Layla Stenwick, Kevin Gordon and Hunter Gordon; great grandchildren Alice Colby and Alfred Colby; sisters Lois Caswell and Gladys Bournique; brothers-in-law Kenneth Barrett and Timothy Barrett (wife Peggy), sister-in-law Lauren Burns (husband Robert); and many extended family.

The family requests in lieu of flowers to consider donations to Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres, 40 Rector St., 16th Floor, New York, NY 10006 or online, or to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061 or online.