



**A MEMORIAL SERVICE  
Giving Thanks for the Life of**

**STEVEN P. KERCHOFF  
October 18, 1960 – March 16, 2025**

**April 24, 2025 – 10:00 A.M.**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE  
A United Church of Christ**

# WE GATHER

# Music for Gathering

# Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

# Prelude

# Breathing in God's Gifts Again

# The Promises of Faith

## The Call to Worship from Psalm 121 (congregation in bold)

I will lift up my eyes to the hills, from whence does my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

God will not let your foot be moved, the God who keeps you will not slumber.

**Behold, the One who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

**The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you from all evil, the Lord will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.**

*Hymn	112	<b><i>Keep Awake, Be Always Ready</i></b>	Arthur G. Clyde/Wachet Auf
		<i>(*Please rise in body or spirit.)</i>	

## WE PREPARE

## The Journey to this Day

## A Prayer of Invocation and Openness to God's Presence

## A Time of Silent Prayer

\*Affirmation of Faith (**unison**) Psalm 23 (as a doxology)

**You, Lord, are my shepherd, I shall never be in need.**

**You make me to lie down in green pastures; You lead me beside the still waters;**

**You restore my soul.**

**You lead me in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil; for you are with me; Your rod and your staff they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;**

**You anoint my head with oil; My cup overflows.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;**

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

*Hymn of Faith	499	<b><i>Pues si vivimos (In All Our Living)</i></b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Spanish, 1 <sup>st</sup> English)	Mexican Folk Hymn
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## WE REMEMBER

### Remembering God's Promises

From the Hebrew Prophets

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain, in the fullness of time,  
the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow,  
of well-matured wines strained clear.  
And God will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
God will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the sadness of the people  
God will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

From Christian Scripture

Romans 8:31-38

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ...  
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or  
persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... No, in all these things  
we are more than conquerors through the One who loves us. For I am persuaded  
that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things  
to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will  
be able to separate us from the love of God made known to us in Christ Jesus our  
Lord.

Hymn 331

*Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*

George Herbert/The Call-Ralph Vaughan Williams

### Remembering Steven

As a Lifelong Friend

William Miles Harter

As a Librarian Colleague

The American Library Association

Musical Remembrance

*September* from *Four Last Songs*

Richard Strauss

Pastoral Reflection (drawn from Steven's journey of faith and remembrance of friends)

Final Reflection      Choctaw Elder and Episcopal Bishop (ret.) Rev. Steven Charleston

Late at night, when the world around you is asleep,  
when all is quiet and still,  
you may hear a distant sound,  
the sound of singing, soft and far away.  
Those are the spirits, the angels,  
the holy beings who inhabit the high halls of heaven,  
but who also dwell here on Earth,  
busy with their work of helping and healing.  
Listen to their singing.  
Let it come into your mind gently.  
It will remind you that you are not alone  
but part of a choir whose song has been heard forever.

A Time of Silence

Musical Response      *Deep River*      African American/arr. Moses Hogan

## WE RESPOND

The Prayer of Committal and the Lord's Prayer (*Please pray a version familiar to you.*)

\*Hymn      299      *For All the Saints* (1-2, 4-5)      Ralph Vaughan Williams/Sine Nomine

## WE GO OUT IN PEACE

\*Benediction

Postlude

*(Please wait until the family leaves the Sanctuary before exiting.)*

## Welcome and Thank You

On behalf of Steven's family, particularly his sisters Cindy and Jane who are here today, thank you for joining in this service. Your presence is a source of comfort and hope for Steven's family and friends who were like family. Please also join in the reception, served in the Community Room and shared outside. Thank you.

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; Michelle Schumann, Pianist; Mary Ann Ybarra, Guest Pianist; Rebecca Brunette, Soloist; United Sanctuary Choir with guests from *Coro Lux* (Chorus of Light) and the Santa Fe Desert Chorale; Peter Spalding, Reader. Special thanks to Steven's close friends Jody and Peter Spalding and Dr. Kathleen Wilson (who chose the hymns for the service).

If you would like to make a memorial gift in honor of Steven, his family invites them for any of the following: Genesee Country Village and Museum; ([gcv.org](http://gcv.org)), Santa Fe Desert Chorale ([desertchorale.org](http://desertchorale.org)), or the Music Fund of The United Church of Santa Fe ([unitedchurchofsantafe.org](http://unitedchurchofsantafe.org)).