



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

JAMES A. TILL

APRIL 15, 1949 – AUGUST 3, 2024



SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

11:00 AM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

PRELUDE

Ray Wiggs and Sunny Choo

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Jesus said: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.'

People: We believe in Jesus Christ, whose resurrection gives us eternal life.

Pastor: Jesus said with blessed assurance: 'In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places.'

People: Dwelling places prepared for us, children of God.

Pastor: Jesus promised: 'If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you there myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.'

People: We give thanks for the promise that when it is time for us to leave our earthly lives, Jesus carries us home to be with God.

*HYMN NO. 711, UMH

For All the Saints, verses 1, 2, 4, and 6

WORDS OF HOPE

from Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.
For all our days pass away,
our years come to an end like a sigh.
They are soon gone, and we fly away.
Teach us to count our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
Have compassion on your servants.
Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

PRAYER

Tender and compassionate God,
we seek to know you through the hearing of your Word
and pray that we may go beyond hearing to obeying,
as shown by the faithful lives of your departed servant, James Albert Till,
whom we honor today.
We know that he is precious in your eyes,
worthy of your special attention and ours,
for he served well in the task that you gave.
Grant that we may feel your presence
as did the followers who knew Jesus in the breaking of the bread,

and may we experience the fire within
that sent them out to share good news. Amen.

ANTHEM

Look at the World, John Rutter
Chancel Choir
Sunny Choo, oboe; Mary Leathers Chapman, flute

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

Leslie Till

PREACHER'S AID PRESENTATION

Rev. Sally Hamon

GOSPEL READING

John 14:2-3

"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

EULOGY

Jim's Room in Heaven
David Kanally

MUSICAL REFLECTION

In this Very Room
Maggie Weber Gehrke and Pamela Pendleton, duet

MESSAGE

Rev. Julia Melgreen

*RESPONSE IN SONG

How Can I Keep from Singing: My Life Flows on in Endless Song, Arr. Taylor Davis
Maggie Weber Gehrke and Salvatore Castronovo
Sunny Choo, oboe; Barbara Hedlund, cello
Congregation stands and sings as directed

*BENEDICTION (from Romans 8)

Pastor: Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

**People: O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

GET CONNECTED AND BLESSING

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts as we carry forward Jim's legacy. May we find strength in the love he shared with all of us, and may his devotion to faith inspire us to live with purpose and grace.

As we leave this place today, may the music of Jim's life continue to echo in our hearts. And may God's light guide us on our journeys, until we meet again in His everlasting presence.

Amen.

*HYMN NO. 666, UMH
Shalom to You Now

POSTLUDE
Ray Wiggs



Beloved husband and devoted father, Rev. James Albert Till, passed away peacefully at home on August 3, 2024, surrounded by his family. Born in Pollock, Louisiana, he was the youngest of seven and earned degrees in music and theology from Louisiana College and Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology.

Jim dedicated 30 years to serving as Minister of Music and Worship at FUMC Champaign, touching countless lives with his passion for music and worship. His gentle spirit, love of music, and unwavering dedication to his family will be deeply missed.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for joining us today as we celebrate Jim's life and the enduring impact of his legacy. We are grateful for this opportunity to share some of Jim's favorite songs with you. We want to send extra-special thanks to all of the staff here at FUMC and to the fantastic musicians who graciously answered the call to share their talents today.

All are welcome to join us this afternoon at the Rose Bowl Tavern in Urbana at 2:00 pm for an afternoon of live music, refreshments, and to continue our joyful celebration of Jim's remarkable life.

With deepest gratitude & love,
Marie, Audrey, & Leslie Till

THE MUSIC

For All the Saints

The United Methodist Hymnal No. 711

Text: William W. How, 1864 (Heb. 12:1)

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Tune: SINE NOMINE; Meter: 10 10 10 with Alleluias

Look at the World

Words & Music: John Rutter

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In This Very Room

Words & Music: Ron and Carol Harris

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How Can I Keep from Singing: My Life Flows on in Endless Song

Words & Music: Robert Lowry

Arranged by Taylor Davis

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Shalom to You

The United Methodist Hymnal No. 666

Text: William W. How, 1864 (Heb. 12:1) Elise S. Eslinger, 1980

Music: Anon.; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1989

Words © 1983 The United Methodist Publishing House; harm © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Tune: SOMOS DEL SEÑOR; Meter: Irr.

THE LITURGY

Call to Worship

<https://preachinginpumps.wordpress.com/2015/04/24/funeral-call-to-worship-adapted-from-john-14/>