

A Message from Rich

I have had a wonderful life!

I have known the love and joy of two amazing boys, Ben & Sam, and the sweetest girl in the world, Maddie. I have known the love of a wonderful woman, Alisa. Thank you!

I have been blessed with the best of friendships throughout my life. Thank you all!

I have tried to give God my best . . . and have often failed. But I have loved and served Christ and his Church with sincerity, passion, and perseverance.

I hope I have left the world a little better than I found it.

My hope is in Christ and Christ alone.

For in the end, it's all grace.

Amazing Grace.

*“One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.”*

~John Donne

“God cannot be indifferent about our destiny any more than a mother can forget the name of her own child. To believe in eternal life, then, is not to believe in something in addition to believing in God. To believe in eternal life is to believe in this kind of loving God. There is another way to put it. If we believe in God--a God of justice rather than a God of indifference, a God who fulfills rather than taunts, a God who loves rather than torments--then eternal life is simply too good not to be true.”

~Martin Copenhaver

*“This world is not conclusion; a sequel stands beyond.
Invisible as music, but positive as sound.”*

~Emily Dickinson

Celebration and Remembrance of the Life of

Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight

Dad, Husband, Friend, Pastor



Central Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Sunday, July 14, 2024

The Service Celebrating the Promises of God
and the Life of
Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight
April 19, 1960 to July 6, 2024

Sunday, July 14, 2024

2 o'clock p.m.

Prelude		Tudor Bota, Director of Music
Introit	<i>"I Will Rise"</i>	by Chris Tomlin
Welcome		Rev. Laura Gronberg
Opening Prayer		Rev. Laura Gronberg
*Hymn	<i>"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"</i>	#2
Holy Scripture	Romans 8:35, 37-39 Psalm 23	Rev. Lee Atherton John Kiley
Solo	<i>"Give Me Jesus"</i>	Gina Branagan Connolly
Holy Scripture	John 14:1-6 Revelation 21:1-5	Rev. Erica Kennedy Thomas Barton, M.D.
Anthem	<i>"Be Not Afraid"</i>	Chancel Choir
Family Reflections		Alisa, Ben, and Maddie Knight
Piano Solo	<i>"For Mother, For Dad"</i>	Sam Knight

Rich wrote this piece years ago to honor his mother. Sam added to it to honor his dad.

Readings Reflections by Richard Gere and Howard Thurman Rev. Carrie Burnap

A Time to Remember

Sue Leidy and Rev. Linda Hirst
Lynn Horton and Curtis Bates

Solo *"To Where You Are"* Gina Branagan Connolly

Homily Rev. Ellie Richardson

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Ellie Richardson

Solo *"The Lord's Prayer"* Wendell S. Purrington

Reading "A Pastor and His Dog" Rev. Katherine Adams

***Hymn** *"Glorify Thy Name"* See insert

Anthem *"Go in Peace"* Chancel Choir

Benediction Rev. Laura Gronberg

Postlude Tudor Bota

*Please stand in body or in spirit.



*You are cordially invited to a reception in Pastor Rich's honor
downstairs in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.
Come to greet the family and share in a wonderful assortment of sweet treats!*

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Rev. Dr. Rich Knight grew up in Harleysville, PA, and graduated from Souderton Area High School. He graduated cum laude from Muhlenberg College (B.A. in Psychology), Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and Eastern University (D. Min. in Marriage & Family Ministry).

When Rich was young, his favorite word was “Pastor.” Once he had children, his favorite words became “Daddy” and “Dad.” Rich loved his family with great joy, commitment, and gratitude. He devoted himself to his children, Ben, Sam, and Maddie, and to his wife, Alisa. His favorite moments in his life were being outside with them, playing sports, camping, and hiking every peak in Acadia National Park. He loved coaching their sports teams and never missed their games, concerts, and art exhibits. He also loved playing cards and board games as a family and especially loved beating them all regularly at miniature golf. Rich enjoyed loudly rooting for all the New England sports teams, as well as playing tennis, golf, guitar, and piano.

Rich expressed profound gratitude and love for his wife Alisa, who’s been his rock. He was also incredibly blessed throughout his life with wonderful friends and parishioners to share life’s joys and sorrows.

Ordained in 1985, Rev. Dr. Knight pastored Ridge Valley United Church of Christ in Sellersville PA (1982-1995), First Parish Church in York ME (1995-2010), Trinitarian Congregational Church in North Andover MA (2010-2016), and Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford MA (2016-2024). During several of his years in York, First Parish Church had the highest average worship attendance among all the U.C.C./Congregational churches in New England, with over 440 a Sunday. Throughout his ministry Rich devoted himself to pastoral care, preaching and teaching, grief support, music ministry, youth ministry, and mission trips, having led 20 youth mission trips, taking over 500 teens on week-long mission trips to do home repair for those who could not afford it. He was also an End of Life Coach for the Dying and Grieving and led grief support groups for more than 20 years.

Memorial donations may be made to Central Congregational Church to be used for the church’s grocery store gift card ministry.

A private interment will be held at the First Parish Cemetery in York, Maine. Arrangements have been handled by the Blake Chelmsford Funeral Home.

Glorify Thy Name

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems. The first system includes three vocal parts with lyrics: '1 Fa - ther, we love you, we wor-ship and a - dore you, glo - ri - fy thy', '2 Je - sus, we love you, we wor-ship and a - dore you, glo - ri - fy thy', and '3 Spir - it, we love you, we wor-ship and a - dore you, glo - ri - fy thy'. The second system continues with 'name in all the earth; glo - ri - fy thy name,'. The third system concludes with 'glo - ri - fy thy name, glo - ri - fy thy name in all the earth.' Chord symbols are placed above the treble clef staff in each system.

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