



It is hard to put into a short paragraph what a blessing my 45 years with Jim has been. He came into my life at a time when I wasn't sure what my future looked like. As we blended our two families, we started our life together in Mendota Heights. Jim had a heart of gold and always put me and our children first in his life and taught us how to love. He was the most giving and unselfish person I ever met and always put others before himself. We faced every challenge head on as long as we had each other. Because of his career we were able to go on many wonderful vacations. We had so much fun at cabins, playing, fishing and boating. Our street rod days were always full of cars and mostly good friends. We were introduced to Via De Cristo and that became a huge part of our life. Our life here at St. Stephen's was very important to us both. Jim never failed to let me know just how much he loved me and was always there by my side. Now it is his time to rest and be remembered for the wonderful man he has always been and for the legacy he has left behind. I can't thank you all enough for the love and support you have shown to me and my family during this very difficult time.

- Kathy

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1575 Charlton Street ■ West St. Paul, MN 55118

Pastor: John Snider | Musician: Bryon Dockter | Soloist: Catherine Zinner | Flutist: Beth Hostager
Guitars/Vocals: Paul and Betsy Hanson

Bulletin Acknowledgements

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A Celebration of Life



JAMES NEIL PACKER

November 27, 1942 - January 17, 2023

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith."*

2 Timothy 4:7

A Service Celebrating the Life of
James Neil Packer

Born: November 27, 1942 † Died: January 17, 2023

Friday, January 27, 2023
11:00 a.m.



Prelude

"Jesus Loves Me"
"Freely, Freely"
"Spirit Song"
"Amazing Grace"

Warner/Bradbury
Owens
Wimber
Newton

GATHERING

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.
We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified
and risen, to remember before God our brother Jim,
to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful
redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into
his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into
death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory
of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been
united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united
with him in a resurrection like his.

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his
baptism, Jim was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's
coming, he shall be clothed with glory.

Hymn

"Borning Cry"

ELW 732

"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

"In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

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Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,
source of all mercy and giver of comfort,
graciously tend those who mourn,
that, casting all our sorrow on you,
we may know the consolation of your love;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WORD

Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Reader: Monique Packer, granddaughter

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God

Reading

Psalm 23

Reader: Mackenzie Martinson, granddaughter

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I 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 my 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 shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God

Hymn

"Those Who See Light"

Osuna / Elze

Those who see light can walk in the dark.
Those who see love can see God.
Those who look up will discover God's face,
those who look down will uncover God's path,
those who perceive God is here with us now
will see God's return.

Those who see light can walk in the dark.
Those who see love can see God.
Those who have witnessed the sun rise and set,
those who have studied a flower unfold,
those who have focused on land, sea, and sky
have seen Jesus Christ.

Those who see light can walk in the dark.
Those who see love can see God.
Those who see good in each person they meet,
those who look after their neighbors in need,
those who believe God's now living in them
will see God's return.

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Time for Memories

Steve Nelson, brother-in-law

Tyler Martinson-Packer, grandson

Ashley Martinson-Packer, granddaughter

Special Music

"I Can Only Imagine"

Millard

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The Holy Gospel according to St. John,
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

John 14:1-6, 27

Reader: Corbin Martinson-Packer, grandson

Jesus said ... "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him,

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation

Pastor John Snider

Hymn

"Jesus My Lord"

ELW #779

Chorus

Have you seen Jesus my Lord
He's here in plain view
Take a look open your eyes
He'll show it to you

Verse 1

Have you ever looked at the sunset
With the sky mellowin' red
And the clouds suspended like feathers
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord

Verse 2

Have you ever stood at the ocean
With the white foam at your feet
Felt the endless thunderin' motion
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord

Verse 3

Have you ever looked at the cross
With a man hangin' in pain
And the look of love in His eyes
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord

Verse 4

Have you ever stood in the family
With the Lord there in your midst
Seen the face of Christ on your neighbor
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord

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Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said,
"I am the resurrection and the life."

Petition response:

Pastor: ... God of mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

Malotte

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SENDING

Commendation

Benediction

Hymn

"How Great Thou Art"

ELW #856
vs. 1, 3, 4

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain*

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Sending

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

All are warmly invited to gather in the church Fellowship
Hall following the service for lunch and a time to share
your special memories of Jim.

- The Family of Jim Packer