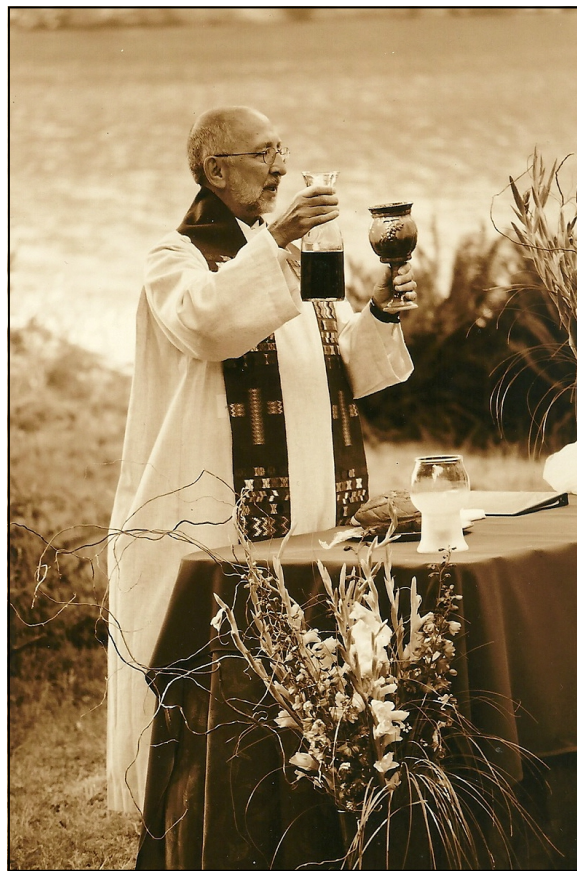


*Celebrating the Life and Ministry of
Gregory Dell*



November 20, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.

*Alice Millar Chapel
1870 Sheridan Rd, Evanston, Illinois*

Prelude: Impromptu in G-Flat Major, op. 90/2 (by Schubert).....Dana Brown

Introit: Order My Steps (by Glenn Burleigh)

The Word of Grace

Death is not too high a price to pay for having lived. Mountains never die, nor do the seas or rocks or endless sky. Through countless centuries of time, they stay eternal, deathless. Yet they never live! If choice there were, I would not hesitate to choose mortality. Whatever fate demanded in return for life I'd give, for never to have seen the fertile plains nor heard the winds nor felt the warm sun on sands beside the salty sea, nor touched the hands of those I love — without these, all the gains of timelessness would not be worth one day of living and of loving; come what may. ~ Dorothy N. Monroe, "The Cost"

The Greeting and the Call to Awareness Rev. Vernice Thorn

Congregational Hymn: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught our hearts to fear, and grace our fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour we first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, we have already come;
'tis grace hath brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
we shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

When we've been free ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

The Witness of the Community is something that Greg shared at most weddings and memorial services. It's an opportunity for the gathered community to speak a brief word of blessing, or story or hope. Because we have such a large crowd today, we have designated speakers to each say a brief word. We invite anyone with a story or a memory to share to submit it to a newly created website at <http://gregdell.cwac.us/>

Chronology of Greg’s Life and Witness of Community..... cathy knight

Witness 1: Community United Methodist Church Kathy Tholin

Witness 2: Minooka United Methodist Church Ruth and Jim Satorius

Witness 3: Wheadon United Methodist Church Andy Gordon

Witness 4: Euclid Ave United Methodist Church Randy Albers and Carl Rinder

Witness 5: Broadway United Methodist Church Charolette Lill

Witness 6: SisBro Covenant Group Rebecca Pries

Witness 7: Church Within A Church Movement Manny Ayala

Witness 8: Family Members

Choir Anthem: Precious Lord, Take My Hand (by Thomas A. Dorsey, arr. Shrader)

Scripture: Isaiah 58:6-12 Rev. Joe Agne

On the contrary! This is the sort of fast that pleases me: Remove the chains of injustice! Undo the ropes of the yoke! Let those who are oppressed go free, and break every yoke you encounter! Share your bread with those who are hungry, and shelter homeless poor people! Clothe those who are naked, and don't hide from the needs of your own flesh and blood! Do this, and your light will shine like the dawn — and your healing will break forth like lightning! Your integrity will go before you, and the glory of YHWH will be your rearguard. Cry, and YHWH will answer; call, and God will say, "I am here" — provided you remove from your midst all oppression, finger pointing, and malicious talk! If you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows will become like noon. YHWH will always guide you, giving relief in desert places. God will give you strength to your bones and you will be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never run dry. You will rebuild the ancient ruins, and build upon age-old foundations. You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, and Restorer of Ruined Neighborhoods.

Reflection Rev. Vernice Thorn

Song of Sending: In the Midst of New Dimensions see page 6

Benediction Rev. Vernice Thorn

One: We came to this place to remember, to give thanks and to celebrate.

All: Our remembering has connected us, our giving thanks has challenged us, our celebration of life eternal has inspired us.

One: We are sent forth to be inspiration and challenge and connectors of justice and peace.

All: We go into the world to be repairers and restorers.

One: Go in peace

All: Amen.

Postlude: Shall We Gather at the River (arr. Craig Courtney)

**Please join the family for a reception in Hardin Hall,
633 Clark Street, one and a half blocks from the Chapel.**

Special Thanks to:

Rev. Vernice Thorn: Celebrant

Dana Brown: Organist, Pianist, Pick-Up Choir Director

Dale Fast: Presentation of Slides

Anna DeShawn: Live Streaming of Service

Alexia Kruger Rivera: Bulletin

Cam Howard: Creator of Website

George Banks: Drums

Broadway United Methodist Church Environment Team: Altar and Flower Arrangement

Dave Samber of Polo Café and Catering: Reception

Amy Bloom and Dan Lewis: Venue Assistance

Sheila Ashby-Schultz, M.J. Grimshaw, Nick Campanile, Alka Lyall: Ushers

Scripture from *The Inclusive Bible*. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2009.

Benediction adapted from Greg's writing in *Celebrating Life*. Reprinted by permission of the publishers of *Celebrating Life*, ed. by Vernice Thorn. © 2009 by Church Within a Church Movement, Inc.

Back Cover Art Work: a Greg Dell quote lettered by Mary Bishop, friend of the family

Donations in Greg's memory may be given to:

* **Church Within A Church Movement**, PO Box 578524, Chicago, IL 60657 (www.cwac.us/contribute). Mission Statement: The Church Within A Church Movement is re-visioning models of justice-making and community beyond denominational boundaries. We are a tax-deductible organization seeking to embody Greg Dell's prophetic voice for justice at the intersections of oppression. Greg's vision provides the foundation on which we stand.

* **Resist**, PO Box 441155, Somerville, MA 02144 (www.resist.org/donate). Mission Statement: Resist is a foundation that supports people's movements for justice and liberation. We redistribute resources back to communities at the forefront of change while amplifying their stories of building a better world.

Website where you may post stories or memories you want to share:

<http://gregdell.cwac.us/>


*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.*

~ Leonard Cohen, poet, song writer, performer
From song "Anthem"

Ours the Journey


Julian B. Rush, arr. AB

$\bullet = \text{III}$




In the midst of new di men sions, in the face of chang ing ways,
Through the flood of starv ing peo ple, war ring fac tions and de spair,
Through the years of hu man strug gle, walk a peo ple long de spised:
We are black and we are yel low, we are brown and red and white,
We shine forth be yond all gen der, all per sua sions, old and young,
Should the threats of dire pre dic tions cause us to with draw in pain,

5




who will lead the pil grim peo ples wan der ing their sep' arate ways?
Who will lift the ol ive bran ches who will light the flame of care?
Neigh bors of all or ien ta tions, striv ing to be eq ual ized.
We a rain bow co al i tion, all of va lue in thy sight.
Each a gift in your cre a tion, each a love song to be sung.
May your blaz ing phoe nix spir it, res ur rect our hearts a gain.

9



God of rain bow, fie ry pil lar, lead ing where the ea gles soar, we, thy peo ple,

14



ours the jour ney, now and ev er, now and ev er, now and ev er more.

1994 Julian B. Rush

“Ours the Journey” — Words: Julian B. Rush, adapted by Annie Britton and Tallessyn Grenfell-Lee. Music: Julian B. Rush, used by permission.



Gregory Robert Dell, age 70, passed away in Raleigh, NC, Oct 30, 2016, from complications of Parkinson's Disease. He was born in Blue Island, IL in 1945. His parents, Anthony & Jeannette Dell preceded him in death. He is survived by spouse Jade, son Jason Delborne, daughter-in-law Tonya Del-borne, granddaughters Olivia & Ramona, and sisters Gloria Dell Filebark & Laura Dell. Greg was a Pastor in the United Methodist Church for 40 years, serving churches in Naperville, Minooka, Evanston, Oak Park, and Chicago. His ministry focused on peace, justice, and the celebration of human diversity, including a commitment to the inclusion of LGBTQI persons in faith communities. Greg earned a BA from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1967 and a Master's of Divinity from Duke Divinity School in 1970. He received honorary doctorates from Illinois Wesleyan and Chicago Theological Seminary. Greg was an avid fisherman, scuba diver, private pilot, and delighted in his family. He will always be remembered as "Bubba" by his granddaughters.

A celebration of his life will take place at 1:30 PM, Sunday, Nov 20, 2016, at the Alice Millar Chapel, a non-denominational center, Northwestern Univ. campus, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to: Church Within A Church Movement, PO Box 578524, Chicago, IL 60657 (www.cwac.us/contribute) or Resist, PO Box 441155, Somerville, MA 02144 (www.resist.org/donate).

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this
is how
God made
us.

all DIFFERENT,
BEAUTIFUL,
a garden of
humanity

- REVEREND GREG DELL