

# A Celebration of Life

RICHARD DEAN SWAISGOOD

November 12, 1946 – August 4, 2023

3:00 pm  
October 1, 2023



# DICK SWAISGOOD

Richard D. Swaisgood (Dick) age 76 of Bellevue, Washington passed away suddenly from an enlarged heart August 4, 2023. His friends, family and many associates all grieve his untimely death. Dick was raised in Renton, Washington, attended Washington State University, and was an Army veteran, serving in the Vietnam War, receiving a Purple Heart.

In 1975 Dick married the love of his life, Janet Langstaff, and they embarked on a 40-year journey of love, laughter, and world travel, often to Maui, their favorite place on earth.

Dick worked for several companies, beginning with Bethlehem Steel in 1970, continued by a successful career at Reinforcing Bar Engineering, eventually retiring as a Construction Manager at Kilburn Architects in 2013.

Dick was a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church and was a longtime parishioner at Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church in Bellevue. He especially loved being a part of the church choir and serving as Assisting Minister and liturgist. He was active in many groups and activities, including the Design Advisory Group, Saint Andrew's Mens Group, K-Group, Housing Group, and serving on Church Councils.

In his leisure time Dick would often enjoy a baseball game or a glass of wine with friends. He was an excellent puzzler, often swapping jigsaw puzzles with others. He enjoyed hiking the beautiful local area trails and was found skiing with friends every winter at Crystal Mountain.

Always trying to better himself, Dick was an avid reader. Social justice and equality were important topics for him. He loved movies and music (especially Brandi Carlisle and Bruce Springsteen), and was a huge fan of the performing arts, serving as a board member with the Performing Arts Festival of the Eastside (PAFE).

Helping the low income and homeless population was also a priority for Dick. Volunteering with several different housing groups in the area, Dick built mini houses and really took pride in the hard work of construction. He wouldn't pass up an opportunity to help in this area and is an example of compassion at work and true leadership.

Dick was preceded in death by his sister Cheryl and wife Janet Swaisgood. In 2019 Dick funded a school for girls in Tanzania, Africa in Janet's name.

He is survived by his brother Jack Swaisgood of Lake Stevens, WA and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

# A Service of Thanksgiving and Praise to God in Loving Memory of

## RICHARD DEAN SWAISGOOD

November 12, 1946 – August 4, 2023

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**P** Pastor  
**A** Assisting Minister  
**C** Congregation

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

Pastor Lara

### **GATHERING**

- P** 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 in Christ, Dick, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

*Please stand.*

### **HYMN**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

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### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**C** **And also with you.**

- P** O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother in Christ, Dick. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**READING**

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**A** Word of God.

**C** Word of Life.

**READING**

1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**A** Word of God.

**C** Word of Life.

**MUSIC**

*I'll Bid My Heart Be Still* [arr. Rebecca Clarke]  
Leslie Johnson, viola; Will Simpson, piano

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL**

**P** The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:13-16

[Jesus said,] “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **WORDS OF COMFORT AND HOPE**

Pastor Lara

## **MUSIC**

*Prayer of Saint Francis*  
Choir

[Allen Pote]

*Please stand.*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

**A** Trusting in God's baptismal promises,  
we affirm our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## ***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION***

- A** God of mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.


## ***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

- C** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## ***THE COMMENDATION***

- P** Let us commend Richard Dean Swaisgood to the mercy of God,  
our maker and redeemer.  
Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Richard.  
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb  
of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the  
arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the  
glorious company of the saints in light.  
**C** Amen.

## ***BENEDICTION***

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

## ***HYMN***

***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light***

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## ***SENDING***

- P** Let us go forth in peace.  
**C** In the name of Christ. Amen.

## ***POSTLUDE***

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Following the service,  
all are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for a reception.

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### **Participants**

*Presiding Minister* The Reverend Lara Forbes  
*Director of Music Ministries/Organist* Dr. Will Simpson  
*Assisting Minister* Jean Wahlstrom  
Viola Leslie Johnson  
*Ushers* Art Gurtel, Mark Davis  
*Audio/Visual* Peter Cornwell, Kurt Lutterman

*Reception Support Team* Linda Willenberg, Lois Eckley,  
Janell Erickson

### **Liturgy and Music:**

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*I'll Bid My Heart Be Still*. Music: Old Scottish Border Melody; arranged by Rebecca Clarke; public domain.

*Prayer of Saint Francis*. Text: St. Francis of Assisi. Music: Allen Pote. Text and Music © 1986 Hinshaw Music, Chapel Hill, NC; streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-718073. All rights reserved.

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*; ELW Hymn 815. Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934. Music: Kathleen Thomerson. Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration; reprinted/streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-718073. All rights reserved.

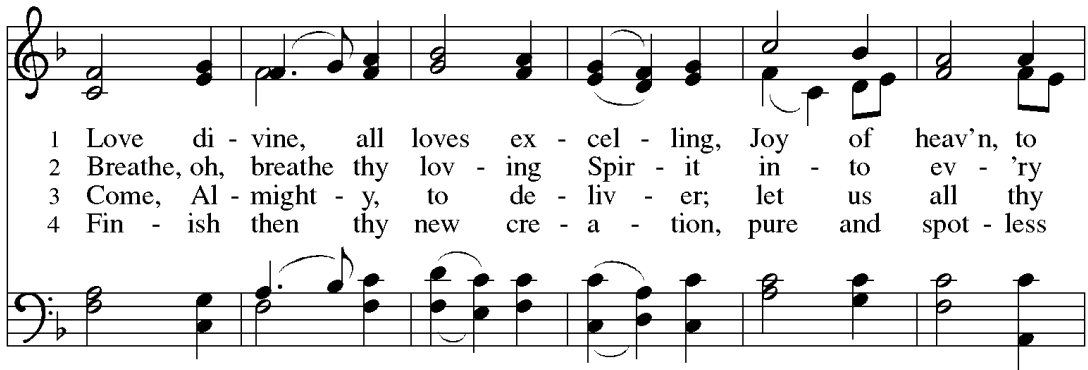
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#### VIDEO and AUDIO RECORDING IN PROGRESS

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This worship service is being livestreamed and recorded to YouTube,  
and video and audio recording is currently in progress.  
It is possible that video footage and/or audio conversations of worshipers may appear  
on the YouTube livestream/recording.

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1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (continued)*

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

## *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (refrain)*

*Refrain*

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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The family suggests that donations in Dick's memory be directed to

Imagine Housing  
1722 138th Place NE  
Bellevue, WA 98005

<https://imaginehousing.org/get-involved/donate/>

~ or ~

PorchLight (formerly Congregations for the Homeless)

13668 SE Eastgate Way  
Bellevue, WA 98005

<https://porchlightcares.org/donate/>



2650 148th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98007

425-746-2529  
<https://SALC.church>