



I want this to be a place
where we can touch and be touched
by the utterly,
the unmistakably sacred –
the breath in all breathing,
the light in all seeing,
the fire in every righteous anger,
the resonance in deep silence,
the love which graces and ennobles
all loves,
the hospitality which bids a welcome
to each of our returnings –
and grieves a little
at each of our leavings.

The unmistakably sacred
which precedes all of our singing;
the sighing which, when we are awake,
calls us home to ourselves,
where in our blood and bones
the body of God dwells.

Let us pray.

-- Joseph Gilmore

JOSEPH H GILMORE MEMORIAL SERVICE
6 January 2021 7:30 pm
Live-Streamed from South Church
Dobbs Ferry, New York

PRELUDE Shawn Hall, piano Kenn Finn, trombone
Vocalise by Sergei Rachmaninoff

JOE'S BELL IS RUNG

WELCOME Rev. Drew Paton

JOE'S WORDS Rev. Dorothy Muller

WORDS OF GRATITUDE Rev. Rachel Jack Thompson

PRAYER & THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT US Rev Drew Paton
as reimagined in the New Zealand Prayer Book

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

MUSIC South Church Choir, directed by Dr. Amir Khosrowpour
"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky", Daniel L. Schutte, composer

REFLECTION Rev. Drew Paton

PEOPLE TALK ABOUT JOE'S PASSIONS

1 Corinthians 13:1-2

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. ²And 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.

Joe the Dad, Brother, Husband – Schuyler Gilmore

1 Chronicles 15:16

David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their kindred as the singers to play on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise loud sounds of joy.

Joe and Music – Cal Wiersma

MUSIC Cal Wiersma, violin *Fantasia No. 7 in E-flat Major* by G.P. Telemann

PEOPLE TALK ABOUT JOE'S PASSIONS

Psalms 139:13-14

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Joe and Gay Rights – Ray Bagnuolo

Matthew 25:34-35

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by God, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

Joe and the Midnight Run – Dale Williams

MUSIC Cassatt String Quartet *Amazing Grace* arranged by Dan Godfrey

CLOSING PRAYER “This is Our Time” a prayer by Joe, read by Donna Thompson

BENEDICTION Rev. Drew Paton

JOE’S BELL IS RUNG

POSTLUDE Shawn Hall, organ *Passacaglia in C Minor* Johann Sebastian Bach

We’d like to thank everyone who has participated in today’s service and because this is being seen by people far and wide, to let you know who we are. . .

Shawn Hall, an engineer by profession and musician by love, was organist/pianist at South Presbyterian Church from 1997 to 2015, which afforded him the privilege of being Joe's friend for 23 years, and his colleague for 16.

Kenn Finn was a member of the American Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Stamford Symphony for over 30 years. His career took him all over the world performing with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, New York Symphonic Ensemble and Mexico City Philharmonic. He writes “If it weren't for Joe letting me practice in the Sanctuary, I don't think I could have ever pursued my life as a freelance trombone player.”

Rev. Drew Paton has been the minister at South Church since August of 2016. Across many and diverse settings, Drew has been guided by a deep-seated belief in God’s special concern for historically marginalized and oppressed groups.

Rev. Dorothy Muller was a long-time Quaker who found in Joe's thoughts and words an alternative to sacred silence. With Joe's support, she went to Union Theological Seminary and was ordained. She spent 10 years as a volunteer chaplain at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, until she was kicked out for causing Joe's kind of good trouble. She remains active in issues of incarceration, particularly of women.

Rev. Rachel Thompson was the luckiest of wives for twenty-two years. Not long enough. She is one of many people who were inspired by Joe to go into ministry, and served for 15 years as Associate Minister at Bedford Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Amir Khosrowpour, pianist and composer, teaches at Horace Mann School and Manhattan School of Music in NYC and is Music Director at South Presbyterian Church. He lives in Ossining with his Steinway (won in a competition), his wife (theater artist Lucia Rich), their daughter (named after a puppet), their son (favorite word is "cookie"), and the squirrels who keep eating the bulbs they plant.

Schuyler Gilmore Ford is the elder of Joe's two beloved daughters; sister to Adrienne.

Cal Wiersma, violinist, a long time member of South Church, was a friend of Joe's, and opposing quarterback at the Joe Bowl.

Rev. Ray Bagnuolo was a member of South Presbyterian Church from 1995 - 2005 and was "under care" of South Church as he prepared for ordination as an openly gay man in the Presbytery of Hudson River in November of 2005. He currently serves as pastor at Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ in Sayville, New York.

Dale Williams has been the Executive Director of Midnight Run since 1991. Before that he served as a member of Midnight Run's board as a homeless representative.

Elizabeth Anderson, cellist with the Cassatt Quartet is also a long-time friend of Joe and Rachel. The Cassatt Quartet have performed at Alice Tully Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington, Tanglewood, and the Beijing Central Conservancy. They have 30 recordings and were named three times to Alex Ross's 10 best classical recordings of the year in The New Yorker magazine.

Donna Thompson has been a member of South Church since 1995. She has served on the Board of Elders, the choir, Worship & the Arts, and as co-curator of The Donald Gallery. She and her husband, Jonathan were married by Joe at South in 1997. She is one of many lucky parishioners to call Joe both minister and friend.

Joe's Bell was hung in honor of his ministry in the sanctuary at South Church in June of 2013, when he retired. The Bell is made of recycled materials by sculptor Bill Loyd of New Mexico.



JOSEPH H GILMORE December 26, 1943 – December 17, 2020

Poet, musician, theologian, hiker, tireless worker on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised, beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, Rev. Joseph H. Gilmore died on Thursday, December 17, 2020, the worst year ever.

Born in Charleroi, Pennsylvania in 1943, Joe was proud of his working class roots and the fact that he had worked in a steel mill as a young man. His father, a steel mill supervisor, instilled in him a love of opera and Shakespeare.

Music, poetry, the night sky, hiking, his family and friends, the God of light and social justice were the passions of his life. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1968. In 2013 he retired as senior minister of South Presbyterian Church in Dobbs Ferry after 32 years of service to that congregation. During his tenure there, he founded the Midnight Run, which now coordinates over 1000 volunteer relief missions a year, bringing food, clothing and friendship to homeless people in Manhattan.

In the 90s Joe was deeply involved in the struggle for equal rights for LGBT people in the Presbyterian Church, USA. He risked losing his ordination when he performed same-sex marriages before gay marriage became legal in the denomination. He also founded the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry at South Church, which is going strong and is, sadly, more needed now than ever.

Joe was known by his congregations as a most eloquent, provocative preacher, and a writer of prayers that many have collected and turned to over the years. He had a unique ability to make people feel connected to the "God beyond all the gods, Mother light to all light, Kind creator of this world. . . "

Joe leaves behind a family he adored – wife Rachel Thompson, daughters Schuyler Ford and Adrienne Galeas and their husbands Chris Ford and Bryan Galeas; step-sons Django Wexler and Cody Wexler and their wives, Casey Blair and Diana Raimondi. And the recent lights of his life – 9-month-old grandson Jack Galeas, 6-week-old Mia Wexler, 3-year-old Chloe Wexler, and 15-year-old Stella-Grace Ford. He is also survived by his grieving brothers, Ron and Cramer and their families, and his beloved sister Elizabeth Nara and her husband Tom.

He was a fiery celebrator of life, a revered teacher and healer for countless people, and a deeply grateful man. He said
"Let "*Alleluia*" be our walking song:
Let "*Thanks!*" be our last word."