

MEMORIAL SERVICE

JOSEPH H. HALL

June 2, 1933 - March 20, 2021



The Heidelberg Catechism - Question and Answer #1:

Q: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

March 27, 2021

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Prelude

Jonathan McGuire

Opening Prayer

Rev. Scott Churnock

Hymn #460

Amazing Grace

1. 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.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
3. Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
his Word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.
5. And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.
6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we've first begun.

Hymn #128

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

1. God moves in a mysterious way
his wonders to perform;
he plants his footsteps in the sea,
and rides upon the storm.
2. Deep in unfathomable mines
of never-failing skill
he treasures up his bright designs,
and works his sovereign will.
3. Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break
in blessings on your head.
4. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence
he hides a smiling face.
5. His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding ev'ry hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flow'r.
6. Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain.

1. My God, how wonderful thou art,
thy majesty how bright!
How beautiful thy mercy seat,
in depths of burning light!

3. O how I fear thee, living God,
with deepest, tend' rest fears,
and worship thee with trembling hope,
and penitential tears.

4. Yet I may love thee too, O Lord,
almighty as thou art;
for thou hast stooped to ask of me
the love of my poor heart.

5. No earthly father loves like thee,
no mother half so mild
bears and forbears, as thou hast done
with me, thy sinful child.

Scripture

II Timothy 1:1-14

Message and Prayer

Rev. Alan Lutz

Hymn #691 – *It Is Well with My Soul*

Nelson & Sandy Schoon

Benediction

Acknowledgements

The Hall family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, kindness, service, and generosity extended to them by so many through the last two years and with Joe's passing. We praise God for His care and mercies!

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Joseph H. Hall, the second son of Robert Bryan and Fannie Emmons Hall, was born June 2, 1933 in Orlando, FL. His early years were spent in Florida and Georgia before the family relocated to Phoenix, AZ where Joe attended high school. After high school he enrolled at Grand Canyon College (now Grand Canyon University) and attended for one year before being drafted into the military, serving in the Army for a little over three years.

After serving, Joe attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, where he completed his college education. There he met Hermina Kempema, a classmate from northwestern Iowa. After graduation in 1960, he studied for a year at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA. That same year he married Hermina during Christmas Break. The following summer they moved to Sunnyside, WA where Joe taught at a Christian elementary school for one year. In September of 1961 son Timothy was born.

Returning to Michigan, Joe entered the University of Michigan to pursue a Master of Library Science degree (he shared with his mother and older brother a great love for books). Upon receiving his degree, Joe was hired by the University of Iowa to be the head of the library's Cataloging Department where he was employed for four years. While in Iowa the family welcomed their second son, Steven, into the family via adoption.

In 1968 Joe was hired by Covenant Seminary, in St. Louis, MO, to be a part-time librarian as he worked to complete the Master of Divinity degree he had begun at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. Upon completion, he became the head of the library at the seminary. Not long after this, Joe began studying part-time at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, from which he received his Doctor of Theology degree. After receiving his doctorate, Joe began teaching courses in church history along with his work as Director of the library. He served at Covenant Seminary for 21 years.

During this time in St. Louis, Joe was one of several founding fathers of both Covenant Christian School (later to become Twin Oaks Christian School) and Westminster Christian Academy. Christian education was a special passion of his and he counted it a privilege to serve on the board of directors of both institutions.

After St. Louis, Joe was employed by Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale, FL to create a library for newly founded Knox Theological Seminary. For five years he directed the library and taught church history courses.

From Knox Theological Seminary the Halls returned to the Midwest where Joe served at Mid-America Reformed Seminary, again as Director of the Library and professor of church history (one year in northwestern Iowa and four years at the seminary's new location in Dyer, IN). During his final year of residency in IN Joe was blessed to be able to serve with Rev. Alan Lutz as an assistant pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Hammond, IN. In the year 2000, the Halls moved back to St. Louis where Joe enjoyed hiking, biking, gardening, and of course, reading.

During the many years he served at various seminaries, he was privileged to be able to participate in short term teaching opportunities at a variety of international seminaries. Through International Theological Education Ministries (ITEM), Joe taught at seminaries in Korea, India, Philippines, and Latvia. Especially during his retirement he collected books independently as well as for ITEM for shipment to seminaries located in places such as Croatia, Uganda, Kenya, and Australia.

For 13 years one of his most special joys was to teach for two weeks during the summer at Sangre de Cristo Seminary located in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. He enjoyed his interaction with the students, most of whom lived with their families on the campus, his almost daily hikes in the mountains, and the opportunity to help build up the seminary's library by finding books to be added to the library's collection.

Beginning in the fall of 2019, Joe experienced serious health challenges. After a faithful life of service and devotion to His Savior and Kingdom work, God called him HOME on March 20, 2021.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years (Hermie), sons Tim (Jayne) and Steve (Susan) and grandchildren, Sarah, Nathan, Mike (Kayla), Jeremy, Matthew (Alyssa) and great granddaughters, Fenna and Nora. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Bob, and David.

Final Resting Place

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery

2900 Sheridan Rd., St. Louis, MO 63125

