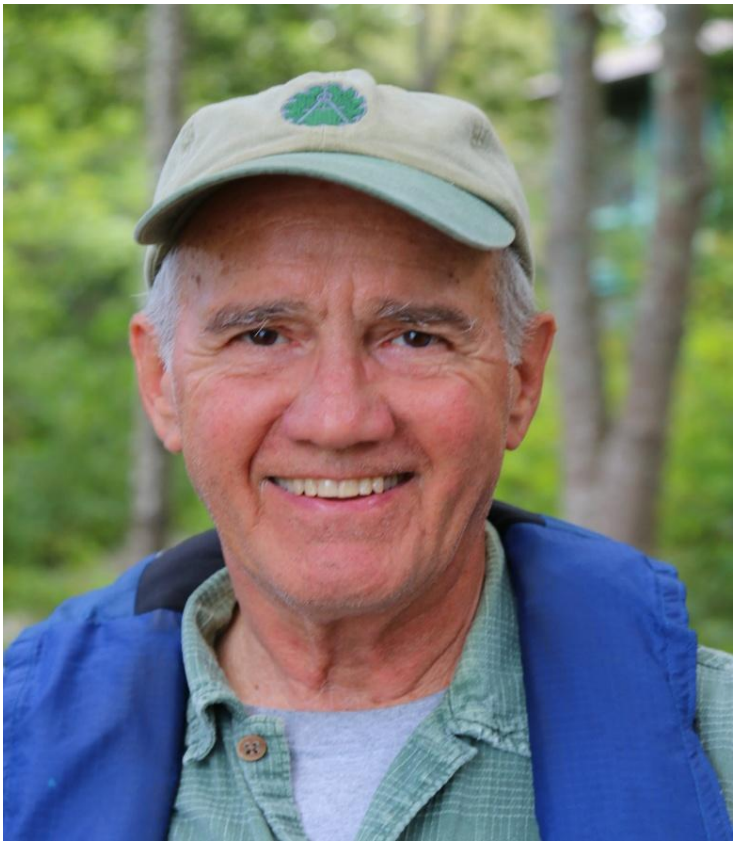
A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of

William Michael Hewes

January 8, 1949- July 8, 2025



Blue Hill Congregational Church
Blue Hill, Maine
September 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Prelude – "Lover's Waltz" by Jay Unger; Violinist: Aliza Thibodeau

Welcome

Celebrant: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

Let us pray: O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Michael. We thank you for giving him to us to know and love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that your love is stronger than death, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered into the fulness of your love in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: "In Christ there is no East or West" (Hymns are found in the back of this bulletin)

Readings:

The Mariner's 23rd Psalm

Psalm 139:1-10

Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39

Sharing of memories:

Sarah Hewes

Tom Hewes

Joe Hewes

Jack Burnett

Musical offering: "What a Wonderful World" by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss; Vocalist Audrey Perkins

Gospel reading: Matthew 5: 13-16

Sermon

Hymn: "Beautiful Savior"

Affirmation from the Iona Community

We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.

Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust; and, in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful so to be the Church, for the glory of God. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Celebrant: Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord in your mercy
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord in your mercy
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord in your mercy
People: **Hear our prayer**

Celebrant: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: We commend to your mercy all who have died, remembering our brother, Michael, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord in your mercy
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. And this we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior.
People: **Amen.**

*Celebrant: A*nd now as our Lord has taught us to pray,
People: **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Special music: Chelsea Davis Brokordt and Will Hewes

Commendation
Celebrant: Let us commend Michael to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Michael. 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.
Amen.

An invitation to the Farmhouse Inn for lunch

The Benediction "The Lord Bless you and Keep You" (sung by members of the Bagaduce Chorale and directed by Bronwyn Kortge)

Sending hymn: "O God Beyond All Praising"

Let us go forth in peace,

In the spirit of love and peace.

Postlude

Participants

Celebrants: The Rev. Lisa J. Durkee
The Right Reverend Thomas J. Brown, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine

Preacher: The Rev. Jonathan Jacobs
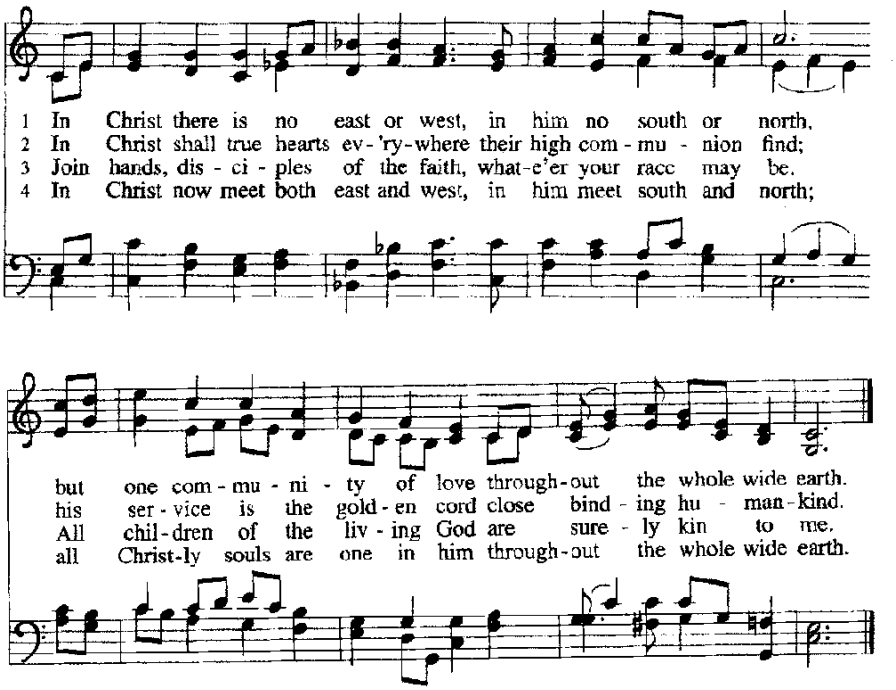
Readers: Harris Madson & Dr Pamela Shellberg

Musician: George Emlen
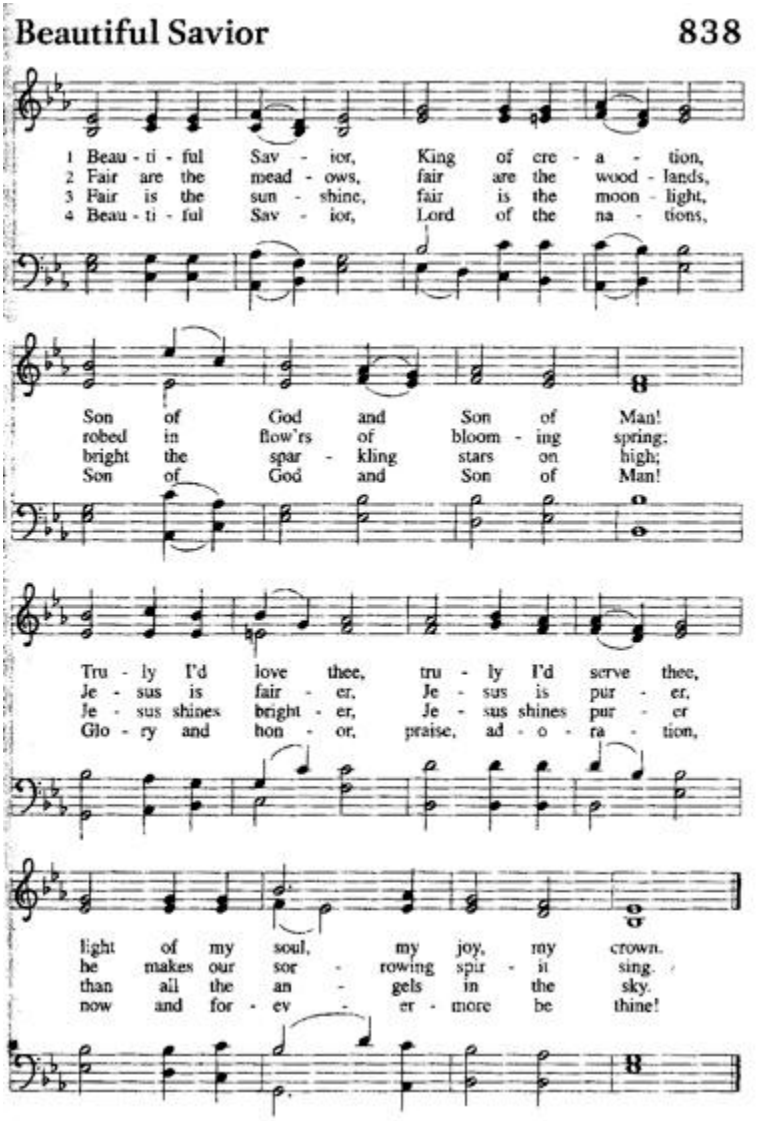
Craftsmen of Michael's Beautiful Box: Jim Adams, Jack Burnett, & Josué Jaime Hernandez

Prayers and Hymns from the Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship
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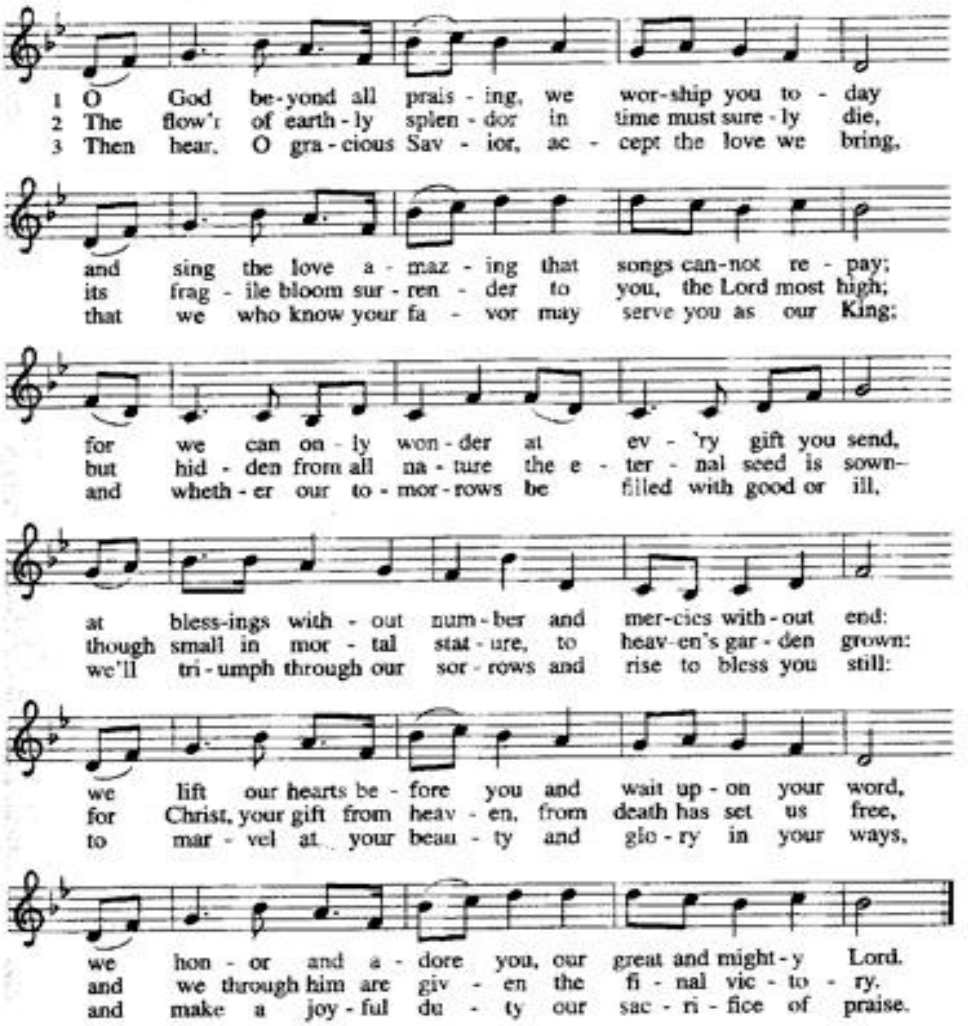


Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.
Music: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry Burleigh, 1866-1949



Text: *Gesangbuch,* Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
Music: Silesian folk tune, 19th cent

O God beyond All Praising 880



Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996
Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934