A Service of Light
in Celebration of and Thanksgiving
for the extraordinary life of

McNeil Robinson II
(March 16, 1943–May 9, 2015)

Tuesday, October 13, 2015
7:30 PM
The Church of the Ascension
New York City
All music in this service was composed by McNeil Robinson.

ORGAN PRELUDE
Chorale Prelude on Douglas
Christopher Creaghan, organist

Chorale Prelude on Llanfair
Robert McCormick, organist

Hommage à Messiaen
Ena Freeman, soprano
Andrew Yeargin, organist

GREETING
The church is darkened when the service is to begin.
All stand, and the Officiant greets the people with these words.

Officiant
Light and peace to you through the grace of our Lord.

People
Thanks be to God.

Officiant
If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

Psalm 139:10-11

Let us pray.

O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever. Amen.
PROCESSION
Improvisation
Robert McCormick, organist

The candles at the Altar are now lighted.

ANTHEM
Jubilate Deo

Jubilate Deo universa terra: psalmum dicite nomine ejus:
Venite et audite, et narrabo vobis, omnes qui timetis Deum,
quanta fecit Dominus animae meae. Alleluia.

Be joyful in God, all you lands; sing the glory of his Name;
sing the glory of his praise. Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for me. Alleluia.

Psalm 66:1-2, 16

HYMN
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Text: Henry Lyte

1. Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven; to God's throne your tribute bring.
2. Praise the Lord, like he tends his flowers we scatter with our smiles and thrills.
3. Frail as summer flowers we blow, the wind and they are gone;
   Ran-somed, healed, re-stored, for the same as in love and grace our hearts raise to our God to bless;
4. Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven; to God's throne your tribute bring.

As for our harps, we hung them up on trees in the midst of that land, for those who led us, led us away, asked for a song, and our oppressors called for mirth: sing us one of the songs of Zion. (refrain)

How can we sing God's song upon an alien soil? If I forget you Jerusalem, let my right hand forget all its skill. (refrain)

Make my tongue to cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. (refrain)

REMEMBRANCE

David Lefkowitz, Cantor Emeritus,
Park Avenue Synagogue

READING
Genesis 1:1-5

F. Anthony Thurman

All may be seated.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Psalm 137

Melanie Sonnenberg, soprano

Psalm 137

Text: Henry Lyte

1. By the wa-ters of Ba- by- lon_ we sat down and wept, when re-
   mem - br-ing, when re - mem - b'ring, when re - mem-b'red you,
   O Zì-on,

   As for our harps, we hung them up on trees in the midst of that land, for those who led us, led us away, asked for a song, and our oppressors called for mirth: sing us one of the songs of Zion. (refrain)

   How can we sing God's song upon an alien soil? If I forget you Jerusalem, let my right hand forget all its skill. (refrain)

   Make my tongue to cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. (refrain)
HYMN
Adon Olam
All stand.

1. Adon olam a-sher ma-lach b’te-rum kol y’tisr ni-vra,
2. V’-a-cha-re kich-lot ha-kol l’-va-do yim loch no-ra,
3. V’-hu e-chad ve-eyn she-ni le-ham-shil lo le-hach bi-ra,
4. Ve-hu e-li vi chai goa-li ve-turn chev-li be-eyl tza-ra,

All 5. Be ya-do af kid ru-chi be-yt, i-shan ve-

A-don olam a-sher ma-lach b’te-rum kol y’tisr ni-vra,

*interludes*

All may be seated.

SOLO
Yih’yu L’Ratzon
Neil Farrell, tenor

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you, O God, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19:15

REMEMBRANCE
Dr. John Walker, President
American Guild of Organists

ANTHEM
Psalm 150
Jason Roberts, organist

Alleluia. Praise God in his holy temple, praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts, praise him for his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him with lute and harp. Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipe. Praise him with well tuned cymbals, praise him with clashes of cymbals, let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

REMEMBRANCE
The Reverend Canon David B. Lowry, Ph.D.

ANTHEM
Had I But Pinions
Claudia Dumschat, organist
Rachel Rosales, soprano

Had I but pinions of a dove to fly away and be at rest:
Far, far away would be my flight; in the wilderness would I settle.
To my haven would I hasten out of the sweeping wind and tempest.
I’ll fly away and be at rest.

Psalm 55
RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his Name sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley I will fear no evil for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head
with oil. My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in
the house of the Lord, my whole life long.

READING
“Thursday the 12th” Christopher Creaghan

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Mark Rehnstrom, baritone

All stand.

Praise God all you nations, give praise all you peoples! For great is God’s steadfast love
for us, and his faithfulness endures forever. (refrain)

READING
Matthew 5:14-16 James David Christie

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after light-
ing 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.”

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

HOMILY
The Reverend Canon Victoria Sirota

All may be seated.

SOLO
Ave Maria Michelle Repella, soprano
Andrew Yeargin, organist

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesu. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus, Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Luke 1:28 and traditional
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant  Let us pray:

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.
For give 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 for ever. Amen.

COLLECTS

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother McNeil.
We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion
on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn.
Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence
we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with
those who have gone before; in your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with
your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your
people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them
worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; grant this for the sake of your
Love. Amen.

HYMN

Singing Songs of Expectation

Leonard

Text: Bernard Severin Ingemann

1. Sing one song of the light of God's own presence, o'er his ran-somed people shed,
2. One strain through the night of the con-flict, doubt and gloom and per-rot, bright-ening all the
3. One strain through the strain of the ex-pec-ta-tion, on ward goes the pil-grim band,

One river, march- ing to the prom-ised land. path we tread: God be-gun:
Clear one light: God's path, the glad-ness of our jour-ney, one
trust one moon: where the ear-nest look-ing for-ward, one

One march to-gath-er step-ping fear-less through the night.
Fa-ther reigns in love for ev-er more.

BLESSING

Cantor Lefkowitz

The Lord bless you and keep you. Amen.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. Amen.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Officiant  Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
The People respond  Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

All may be seated.

Allegro e furioso, from Sonata (1990)  Kalle Toivio, organist
Announcements

- A reception follows in the Parish Hall, entrance at 12 West 11th Street.
- All are invited to share memories and anecdotes of McNeil Robinson at www.mcneilrobinson.com.
- Donations may be made to The Leupold Foundation in honor of McNeil Robinson.

The Leupold Archives will house the McNeil Robinson library, including manuscripts, recordings, correspondence, photos, and professional materials. The Leupold Archives, a research library, is a repository of organ music and other related materials, open to the public and to private researchers by appointment, as well as to the editors of Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc. Information on the archive and how to donate is found on www.wayneleupold.com/archives and www.wayneleupold.com/foundation.

Clergy and Speakers
The Reverend Canon Victoria Sirota, officiant
The Reverend Canon David B. Lowry, Ph. D.
Cantor David Lefkowitz
Cantor Azi Schwartz
Robert Sirota
Dr. John Walker

Organists
Christopher Creaghan
Claudia Dumschat
Robert McCormick
Jason Roberts
Kalle Toivio
Andrew Yeargin

Choir Director
Andrew Yeargin

Choir

SOPRANOS
Aimee Bayles
Janet Chung
Lori Corrsin
Elaine Cunningham
Nonie Donato
Lori Engle
Ena Freeman
Michelle Repella
Rachel Rosales

ALTOS
Catherine Aks
Yonah Gershator
Judith Malafronte
Bess Morrison
Georgia Osborne
Nancy Wertsch

TENORS
Daniel Cucura
Martin Doner
Neil Farrell
James Kennerley
Stephen Rosser
Lawrence Rush

BASSES
Brett Algaier
Raphael Biran
Samuel Carl
James Gregory
Stanley Kushel
Elliot Levine
Mark Rehnstrom
Acknowledgments
The Church of the Ascension
The Reverend Elizabeth G. Maxwell, Rector
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