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A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
in Witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ
and in Thanksgiving for the Life of

Gregory John Grieco

April 30, 1942 – May 22, 2020

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Order of Worship

PRELUDE *Prelude on Amazing Grace* Adolphus Hailstork

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Rogers

Psalm 121
I lift my eyes up to the mountains,
from where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
We look not to the mountains or valleys,
even heaven or earth,
For God is found among us.
Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,
God is here among us.
Come, let us worship the God of Creation,
the God of People, the God of Community.
Let us worship together in faith.

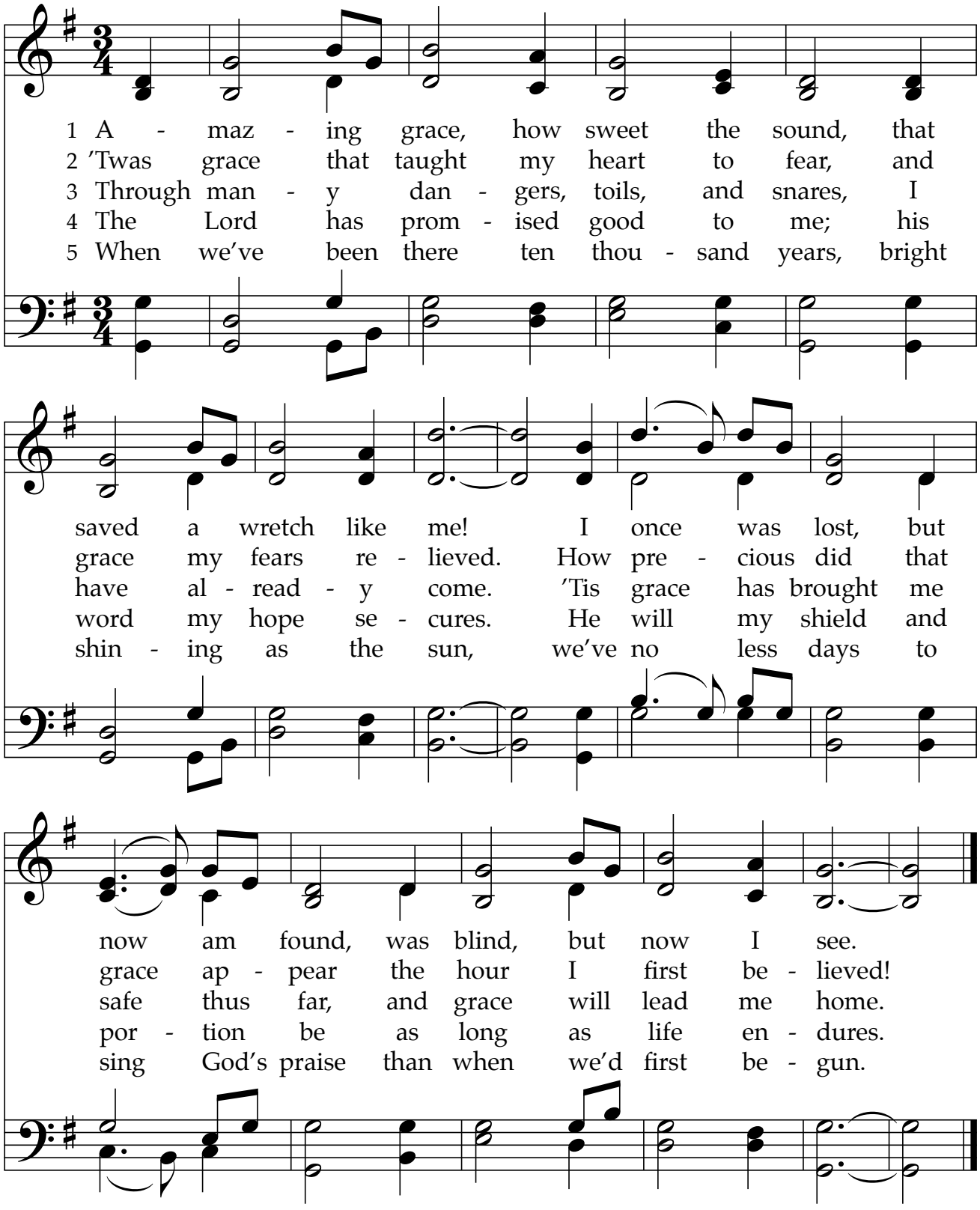
PRAYER

HYMN *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE

SCRIPTURE READING
Song of Songs 8:6–7
Philippians 4:4–9
One: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE
David Grieco
Thomas Grieco
Anthony Smith-Grieco
Sidonie Smith

HYMN *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE



MUSICAL SOLO *Sarabande* from *Suite #3 in C Major* J. S. Bach
Derek Snyder, cello

WORDS OF FAITH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN *I Danced in the Morning* LORD OF THE DANCE
David Magumba, tenor

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Ode to Joy*

Those parts of the service of worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in **bold type**.

Officiating today is the Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor. Soloists are Derek Snyder, cello; and David Magumba, tenor. Organist is Dr. Paul Haebig.

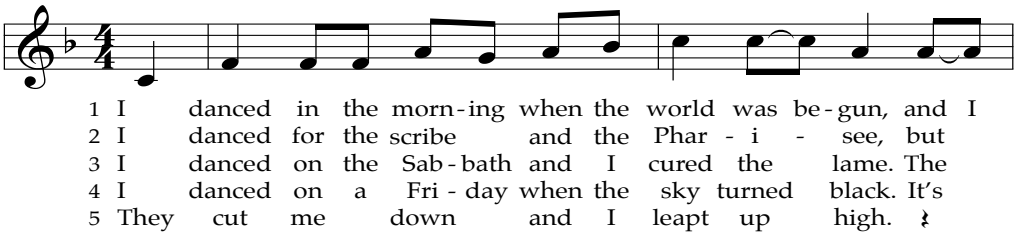
Anthony Smith-Grieco reading from Greg Grieco's *Canio's Secret : A Memoir of Ethnicity, Electricity, and My Immigrant Grandfather's Wisdom* (Lulu Publshing 2018).

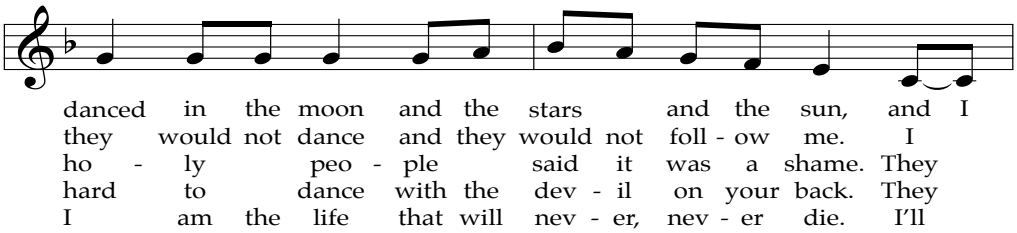
Poetry read in the service:
Emily Dickinson, "You left me - Sire - two Legacies" (713) and "Come slowly - Eden!" (205)
Rainer Maria Rilke, "Love Song" (trans. Stephen Mitchell) and "The Swan" (trans. Joanna Macy and Anita Barrows)

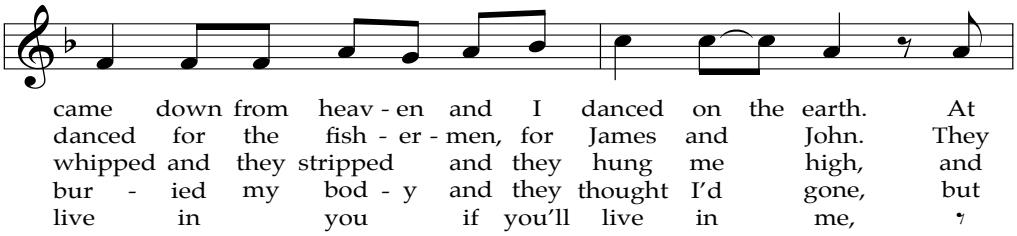
A slideshow with photos of Greg's life will follow the postlude

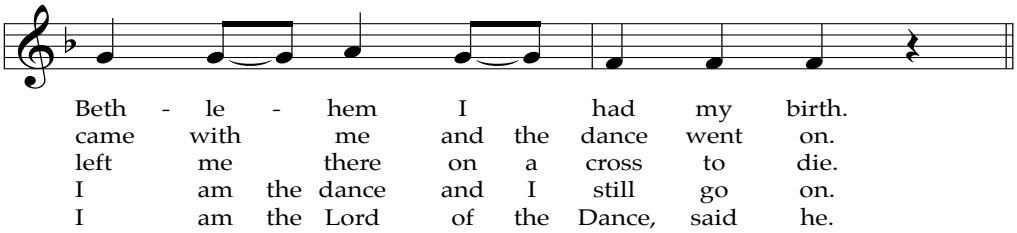
Memorial contributions may be directed to a non-profit organization that advances the work of social and educational justice.

HYMN *I Danced in the Morning* LORD OF THE DANCE

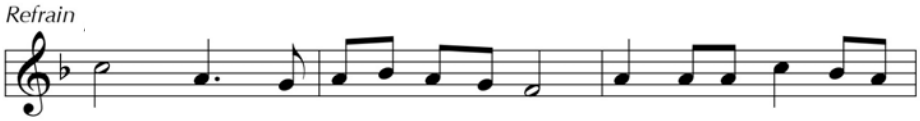


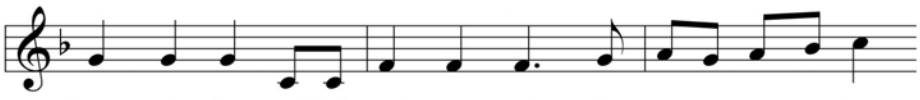


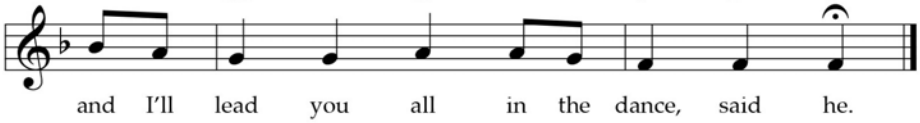




Refrain







In Loving Memory of Gregory John Grieco

Gregory John Grieco was born to Gerald Grieco and Kathryn Heaney Grieco in 1942. Greg grew up on Chicago's West Side in the 1950s. As a young adult he learned about the quality of a person's character and about the importance of finding a vision of happiness from his beloved immigrant grandfather Canio Grieco. He spent one year studying for the priesthood at Loras College in Dubuque, IA. He received a BA in English and a minor in physics, from the University of Notre Dame, where he spent every free hour tech-directing, and occasionally acting in theatrical performances. That experience motivated him to pursue an MFA in Film and Theater at the University of Minnesota. In the early 1970s he was an active member of Chicago's Kartemquin film collective. Passionate about achieving a more just and equitable society, he worked with cooperatives and non-profit organizations in Tucson, AZ, Washington, DC, Binghamton, NY, and Ann Arbor. Raised a Catholic, Greg left the church and later became an active member and Deacon in Binghamton's First Presbyterian Church and Elder in Ann Arbor's First Presbyterian Church. In Ann Arbor, he was a co-organizer of the church's Haiti mission and traveled there numerous times. Throughout his life, he remained true to his diverse interests by keeping two sets of notebooks, one for physics, chemistry, and equations, and one for personal writing – poems, short stories, and philosophical meditations. Greg will be remembered by his granddaughter as a "goofus" who played with her in the middle of the night, and by his sons as the best of fathers, patient, if sometimes demanding, supportive, and openly affectionate. By family and friends, he will be remembered for his keen intellect, his lightning wit, and his expressive interest in other people's lives and ideas. He was a deft, intense interlocutor with people he met – anywhere, on a train, at a party, in his work. He went with them where their interests were, often surprising people at how knowledgeable he was in their field of interest. Greg was hot-hot-tempered and passionate, charismatic and able to draw people to his words and his presence. But he was also cool-astute at gauging the emotional climate and vibrating to the energies in a room. Greg was also a stunningly courteous and concerned man. His empathy was genuine and deep. For those he loved, he made our lives more fully our own. At this time of his death, Greg had been living with dementia since 2003. Throughout his illness, he maintained his characteristic kindness, courtesy, and genuine interest in other people. He leaves behind his partner of forty-seven years, Sidonie Ann Smith, sons David Andrew Grieco and Anthony Nicol Smith-Grieco, daughter-in-law Claudia Rao, granddaughter Olive Marie Grieco, brother and sister-in-law Thomas and Roxanne Grieco, brother-in-law Terrance Murphy, and nine nieces and nephews.

Please share your memories, thoughts, and words of comfort with Greg's family at sasidly@gmail.com.