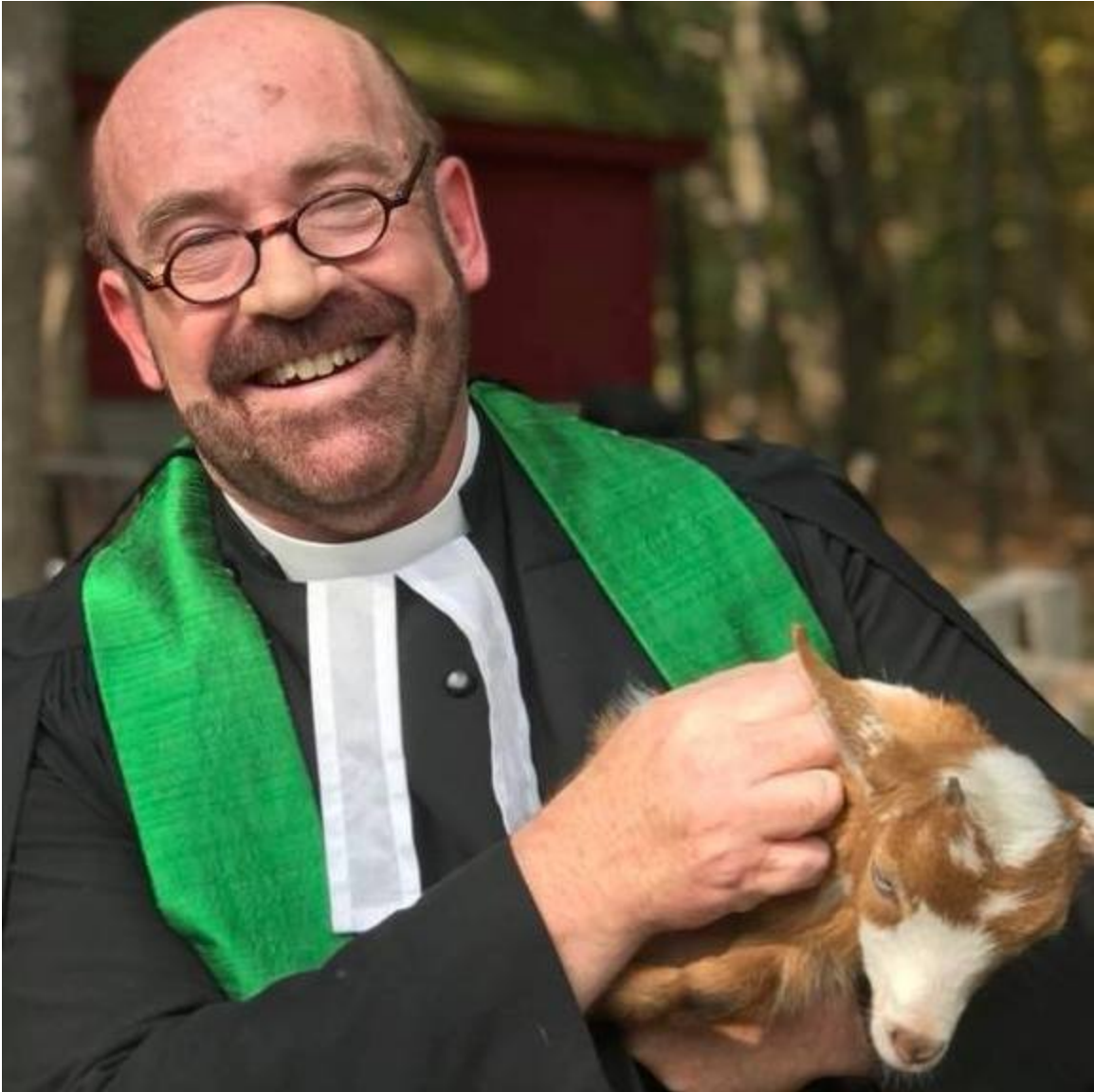


**Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving  
for**

**Richard F. Jones**

July 17, 1956-August 28, 2022



**Mechanics Hall, Worcester, MA  
October 11, 2022**

Rev. Richard F. Jones, BA, MDiv (born 7/17/1956) passed away on Sunday, August 28, 2022 after a short hospitalization. Raised in East Brookfield, Richard was the son of the late Kenwood & Beverly (Austin) Jones. He is survived by his brother, Robert A. Jones of Worcester, generations of cousins, and many dear friends. He is pre-deceased by his brother Alan K. Jones.

He was a graduate of the David Prouty High School, Class of 1975, and Worcester State College. As a young professional, Richard immersed himself as a leader in the cultural life of Worcester and was a passionate advocate for music and history throughout the region.

While serving as the Creative Programs Director and curator of the Hook Organ at the historic Mechanics Hall, Richard invited and hosted world-renowned musicians and personalities (from cellist YoYo Ma to civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks) to Worcester. He enjoyed great success in overseeing the restoration of the 1864 Hook Organ and instituting the popular Brown Bag Concert Series at Mechanics Hall. Richard later accepted a position to serve as the Education Coordinator for the Worcester Historical Museum and concurrently contributed as a writer for Worcester Magazine and as a talk show host for Worcester Public Radio.

Richard then answered his call to ministry, enrolling and proudly completing studies to obtain his Master of Divinity degree from the Andover Newton Theological School. In October of 1995, Rev. Richard F. Jones was named the thirteenth minister of the First Parish of Bolton. Beloved for his engaging sermons, unique and personal approach, Rev. Jones faithfully ministered to generations of families and friends in all times of life's joy and sorrow. He was an apostle of pastoral care and counseling, admired as a most eloquent orator, and a preacher of hope and social equity for all.

While in Bolton, Richard served as the chaplain to the local police and fire department. He served as Moderator of the Central MA Association of the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ, as well as on the board of directors for numerous organizations, and continued his participation as a beloved member of the Worcester Shakespeare Club. Richard held vast knowledge about organs and possessed an affinity for classical music, literature, poetry, and genealogy. He enjoyed the canine companionship of his late Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Ellie and Kristi, and cherished his yearly summer retreats to Bailey Island, Maine.

# Order of Service

Please silence cell phones.  
\*Please rise in body or spirit.

## Prelude

*Silence during the Prelude is appreciated so everyone can enjoy Richard's favorite repertoire.*

Laudate Dominum ( <i>Vesperaesolettes de Confessore</i> ) K. 339 <i>W. A. Mozart</i>	Maria Ferrante
O Mensch, beweindeinSunde gross BWV 622 <i>J.S. Bach</i>	Alexander Lane
Clair de lune <i>Claude Debussy</i>	Will Sherwood
Choral Prelude on "Schmücke dich, o liebeSeele" BWV 654 <i>J. S. Bach</i>	Sean Redrow
Nocturne in B Major, Op. 62, No. 1 <i>Frederic Chopin</i>	Kristjon Imperio
Fanfare for the Common Man <i>Aaron Copland</i>	Bob Gordon & Will Sherwood

## Welcome & Prayer of Ingathering

Rev. Liz Garrigan-Byerly

**\*Opening Hymn** Praise My Soul the God We Sing Now p. 5  
Tune: *Lauda anima* Text: Richard Jones  
Fanfare and arrangement: Will Sherwood

## Shakespeare Club Remembrances

James Mullett, Josephine Truesdell,  
& Michael Badger

**Musical Reflection** Consolation, Op. 30, No. 3  
*Felix Mendelssohn*

## Words of Remembrance

Bob Blair  
James David Moran

## Poem "For Equilibrium"

*John O'Donohue*

Alan Moyer

**Solo** Pie Jesu (*from Requiem*)

*Gabriel Fauré*

**Words of Remembrance**

CasiKristant  
Rev. Randy Murray  
Sarah (Baum) Petrus  
Rev. Bea Manning

**Solo** In the Morning When I Rise, Give Me Jesus

*Charles Ives*

**Poem** “Let Evening Come”

*Jane Kenyon*

Brooke James

**Prayer of Thanksgiving & Commendation**

**\*Closing Hymn** In the Midst of New Dimensions

p. 6

Tune: *Bolton New*      Tune: Richard Jones

Fanfare and arrangement: Will Sherwood

*Verse 1 will be sung by Maria Ferrante to introduce the tune.*

*The organ and timpani fanfare will herald the start of the hymn to be sung by all starting with Verse 1.*

**In His Own Words**

Rev. Richard F. Jones  
*from December 21, 1983*

**Postlude** Dieu parmi nous (*La Nativité du Seigneur*)

*Olivier Messiaen*

*Please stay seated for the postlude.*

We encourage you to continue to remember and celebrate Richard after the service. There is a memorabilia table and an open bar, which has both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

We offer deep gratitude to Mechanics Hall for sharing their space, Joe Chilorio for his technical support, to First Unitarian Church of Worcester for loan of the timpani, everyone who helped behind the scenes, and each of you for loving Richard.

More information on the Worcester Organ can be found at [www.HookOrgan.com](http://www.HookOrgan.com)

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# Praise, My Soul, The God We Sing Now

Praise, my soul, the God we sing now, Praise the God our  
 Praise the Fire of Grace that called us From a darkened  
 As a par-ent guards and guides us, So this God is  
 God, you gaveth the stars their pla-ces, Bid Your an-gels

7  
 faith pro-claims, Praise the God our spi-rits share now,  
 wild-er-ness; Praise the Grace that still up-holds us,  
 shield and sun; Our Cre-a-tors's arms en-fold us,  
 come and go, Yet You know our names and fa-ces,

13  
 One true God no name con-tains. Al-le-lu-ia!  
 Slow to an-ger, swift to bless. Al-le-lu-ia!  
 When life dawns and when it's done. Al-le-lu-ia!  
 We were born this Love to know. Al-le-lu-ia!

19  
 Al-le-lu-ia! Praise the Lovethat, end-less reigns.  
 Al-le-lu-ia! Glor-ious is God's faith-ful-ness.  
 Al-le-lu-ia! Praise the high, e-ter-nal One!  
 Al-le-lu-ia! We shall live this Love to show. A-men.

Tune: "Lauda Anima," by John Goss  
 Words: A paraphrase and restatement of Psalm 103 and the hymn,  
 "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,"  
 written by Richard F. Jones, 1989

# In the Midst of New Dimensions

Julian Rush, 1985, alt.

BOLTON NEW

Tune by Richard F. Jones  
Setting by Richard Webster

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions in the face of chang-ing ways,  
2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and des-pair,  
3 As we stand a world di-vi-ded by our own self- seek-ing schemes,  
4 We are man and we are wo-man, all per-sua-sions, old and young.  
5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ple wan-d'ring in their sep-'rate ways?  
Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
Grant that we, your glo-bal vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.  
Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love-song to be sung.  
May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar. We your peo-ple,

ours the jour-ney, now and ev-er-more. now and ev-er-more. A-men.

*The text of this hymn was written by United Methodist minister Julian Rush, director of the Colorado AIDS Project. The tune was composed by Richard F. Jones to honor the members of First Parish of Bolton, Massachusetts, which he serves as its 30th minister. Text: Copyright 1985 Julian Rush. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tune: Copyright 2012 Richard F. Jones. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Setting: Copyright 2012 Richard Webster. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

## Participants

Soprano **Maria Ferrante** was long-time acquaintance of Richard and collaborator at Mechanics Hall, where she heard many fabulous Shakespearean renditions by Richard while at the Shakespeare Club of Worcester, often followed by applause.

**Alexander Lane** has served as music director at First Parish of Bolton since 2015. In that capacity, he worked alongside Rev. Richard Jones until 2020.

**Will Sherwood** is the retired Director of Music, First Unitarian, Worcester; past Principal Organist at Mechanics Hall and Artistic Director of Worcester Organ Concert Series; past Dean of Worcester American Guild of Organists and a long-time friend and colleague to Richard.

**Sean Redrow** is the Music Ministry Director at St. John's Catholic Church, Worcester.

**Kristjon Imperio** is organist and assistant director of music at Wellesley Village Church. He served alongside Reverend Jones as music director at First Parish of Bolton between 2007 and 2015.

The **Rev. Liz Garrigan-Byerly** is an Area Conference Minister for the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, where Richard held his ministerial standing.

**James Mullett, Josephine Truesdell, and Michael Badger** are members of the Worcester Shakespeare Club. Richard joined the Club in 1989. He was among its longest-term members, having been active for 32 years.

**Bob Blair** was Mechanics Hall's Building Manager for forty years, beginning with its major restoration in 1977. He worked with Richard during his years of service as the Hall's Organ Curator and Development Officer.

**James David Moran** is a writer and producer of cultural and educational programming. As the first Education Coordinator for Mechanics Hall, he worked closely with Richard, in the 1980s.

**Alan Moyer** is the retired First Parish of Bolton Religious Education teacher and cherished a long friendship and pastoral connection with Richard

**Casi Kristant**, wife of Richard's godson Chris, is representing the Kristant family.

The **Rev. Randy Murray** is a priest of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and serves the parish of St. Peter in Oshawa. Richard and he met while attending high school in Spencer.

**Sarah (Baum) Petrus** is a past Bolton resident and member of Richard's first Jr. Youth Group. He became part of her family and a dear friend.

The **Rev. Bea Manning**, Ph.D. is the Associate Minister First Parish of Bolton and a dear friend and colleague of Richard.

**Brooke James** is a past resident of Bolton and member of the First Parish of Bolton. Richard was a dear friend over the course of many decades.

**Rose Stanley** is the former First Parish of Bolton Religious Education superintendent. A friend to Richard for over 25 years, she taught Richard how to drive in 1995.

## Wild Geese

by Mary Oliver

*One of Richard's favorite poems*

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees

for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.