

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



JUSTIN IRVING MORRILL

JUNE 10, 1932 – OCTOBER 26, 2024

November 8, 2024

Mason United Methodist Church

Hymns

For All the Saints

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Refrain:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. [Refrain]

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. [Refrain]

Amazing Grace

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.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.



The family would like to thank Rev. Robert Ward, Jinshil Yi, Rick Oldenburg, Tom Price, Gary Grindley and Mason United Methodist for their contributions to this service. Thank you to Visiting Angels, Merrell Gardens, and The Cottages at University Place for care in Justin's final years, and to all our friends and family who have shown such support.

Order of Service

Prelude: Selections of Classical Music

Jinshil Yi, Piano, played from Justin's music collection.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Reverend Robert Ward

Scripture - Psalm 139: 1-3; 2-10

Reverend Jennifer Howard Burns, Granddaughter

Hymn: For All the Saints

Reading: An Indian Prayer

Courtney and Emily Chandler, Granddaughters

Family Remembrances

Eileen Morrill Howard and Genevieve Morrill, Daughters

Reading: When Great Trees Fall

Thomas Price, Friend and Colleague

Remembrance

Rick Oldenburg, Friend and Colleague

Musical Reflection: Beethoven "Pathétique"

Piano Sonata No. 8 in C Minor, Op 13: II. Adagio cantabile – Jinshil Yi, Piano

Remembrance

George Howard, Son-in-Law

Meditation

Reverend Robert Ward

Closing Hymn: Amazing Grace

Closing Prayer

Reverend Jennifer Howard Burns

Sending Out

Reverend Robert Ward

Postlude – Selections of Classical Music

Jinshil Yi, Piano, played from Justin's music collection.

Please remain seated until the immediate family has processed.

Please join the family for refreshments and sharing stories in the Parlor

JUSTIN IRVING MORRILL

Justin Irving Morrill was born in 1932 in Seattle to Howard W. and Fayetta Johnston Morrill. His brother, Howard J. Morrill was three years his senior. His childhood and youth were lived in what was then the northern outskirts of Seattle. According to his memoirs, music was the cornerstone of their household. Justin was talented enough on the piano to receive lessons from a preeminent piano teacher at that time, Kenneth Ernst, with whom he studied through college.

He attended Lincoln High School in Seattle. One day, on the bus, he met Del Morrill who was, at first, only a friend. When they both realized it was more than a friendship, they began dating and were eventually engaged.

At the University of Washington, he thought he might become a doctor, but another calling had been pulling him for some time. Mentored by his pastor, John Soltman, he developed a passion for ministry and reaching marginalized people. He made the decision to become a Methodist pastor.

Justin and Del were married in March of 1954, shortly after Justin's graduation. There followed six years of graduate school and seminary at Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston Illinois. During that time, their first two children, Eileen and Anita, were born. After graduation, in 1960, the family returned to the Pacific Northwest where Justin was ordained. He was appointed to Seabold Methodist Church on Bainbridge Island. That same year, their third daughter, Genevieve was born. In addition to the demands of ministry, Justin and Del gave recitals and were involved in the Bainbridge Light Opera.

Around 1965, Justin encountered the Ecumenical Institute (EI). He described this as finally making sense of theology. The EI's concept of "the church as a servant for the renewal of the community" resonated with him. He and Del connected with other members of the "Spirit Movement" as it was called then, working to bring the EI courses to the Pacific Northwest.

The family attended a summer program on the West Side of Chicago in 1966 and marched with Dr. Martin Luther King. In 1968, they decided to join EI full time and moved to Chicago. Justin was quickly tapped to go on a three-month sweep of Asia with EI founder, Joseph Matthews. It was a formative trip, as he encountered many different cultures, languages, and extreme poverty. Not long after his return, he and Del were asked to go to Japan where they stayed for four years. Over the next 20 years, Del and Justin took leadership positions with EI and its secular arm, the Institute of Cultural Affairs, in Japan, Chicago, and New York. Justin was ultimately appointed to the global leadership body of the organization and frequently traveled to all corners of the world.

Their first two granddaughters, Kathryn and Jennifer, born to Eileen and her husband George Howard, were both baptized by Justin. Justin seemed to revel in the role of grandfather when he was able to see them. Daughter, Anita, married Sam Chandler in 1985 in Tacoma.

Around the same time, Del and Justin made a decision to move back to the Seattle area. As a symbol of promise for the future, Del purchased a Steinway piano, so that Justin could resume playing. With skills he had honed raising funds in EI, Justin obtained a job in development, first at PACE (a consortium of Catholic elementary schools) and then at Bellarmine High School. They loved being grandparents in the same town as Chandler additions, Courtney and Emily, both also baptized by Justin.

They bought a somewhat decrepit house with "good bones." Justin delighted in renovating it top to bottom and transformed the yard into a wonderland. And, of course, he reconnected with piano music. He and Del held gatherings in their beautiful home, complete with musical recitals. They later downsized and bought another fixer-upper. Justin again proceeded to renovate the entire house and garden. He and Del supported the arts in many ways and he was on the Board of the Northwest Sinfonietta.

In 1999 Genevieve married Mike Borassi. Justin deeply appreciated his sons-in-law and took every opportunity to have a meal with "just the men."

Justin's last job was with Community Health Care, raising millions of dollars for new clinics and facilities. He was a treasured member of the staff, so much so that he did not retire until the age of 80.

He and Del celebrated 70 years of marriage on March 20, 2024, a union based in shared faith, caring values, passion for the world, and a risk-taking attitude toward life.

Justin died on October 26, 2024, at the age of 92, after a long and full life.