

*Germantown
Presbyterian Church*



*A Service of Worship
in Witness to the Resurrection
and in Celebration of the Life of
Charles Thomas Cates*



July 24, 1941 - December 23, 2020

*February 16, 2021
2:00 P.M.*

**Please stand.*

Prelude

Dr. Alex Benford, piano

Welcome

Dr. Will Jones

***Call to Worship** (from Psalm 19)

Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

People: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

Leader: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

People: The ordinances of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold.

**People: God's law is sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
Let us worship God!**

***Hymn**

In the Garden

1. I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.

2. I'd stay in the garden with Him tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe, His voice to me is calling. [Refrain]

Opening Prayer

Rev. Wiggins

Personal Remembrances

Mr. Gerald Wilson
Ms. Sharon Goldsworthy
Mr. Taylor Cates

Solo

How Great Thou Art
Jeffrey Day, tenor

Stuart K. Hine

Prayer for Illumination

Mr. Tom Sauer

Readings from Holy Scripture

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31
Psalm 139:1-18

Mr. Sauer

New Testament

Philippians 4:4-8
Revelation 22:1-5

Dr. Jones

Meditation

Dr. Jones

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (in unison, please remain seated) Rev. Wiggins

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Special Music

It Is Well with My Soul
Chuck and Lauren Utterback, duet

Horatio Spafford

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Dr. Jones

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

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face, And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove, Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived, When we shall leave this place.

*Commendation and Benediction

Dr. Jones

C. Thomas Cates passed away peacefully on December 23, 2020, of cancer. Tom Cates was born on July 24, 1941 in Memphis, Tennessee, to parents Charles and Mary Evelyn Cates. His father owned a country grocery store, and for a time, Tom and his sister Marilyn lived with their family in the back of Cates Grocery in Milan, Tennessee. He excelled at Milan High School as the co-captain of the football team, the Senior Class President, and was named "Mr. Milan High" for the class of 1959. He graduated from Memphis State University in 1963 and Vanderbilt Law School in 1965, where he was on the Law Review and the Order of the Coif. He served in the Army Reserves and was honorably discharged.

While in law school, he met Elaine Taylor. After a whirlwind romance, he married her in 1965. Together, they created a wonderful life for their four children, Cindy, Charlie, Taylor, and Andy. Tom was so proud of his children and modeled for them the values of hard work, humility, and service. He has been blessed with seven grandchildren who loved to call him "Papa."

For more than forty years, he practiced law with Burch Porter & Johnson, in Memphis. Resisting the trend to focus on one specialty, he was a "lawyer's lawyer," able to help his clients with complicated transactions as well as litigation matters and any other problem that arose. He was an exacting and effective mentor, passing along to young lawyers who worked with him the benefit of his wisdom and experience. Beginning in the early 1990s and continuing through his retirement in 2013, he served as the City Attorney for Germantown and Collierville, Tennessee, providing steady leadership through a period of tremendous growth for both communities. Among his many accomplishments in this role was the negotiation to secure the land use rights necessary for the development of Wolf River Boulevard. He also spearheaded the litigation on behalf of several municipalities which led to the creation of the municipal school districts in Shelby County.

Tom was instrumental in assisting the City of Germantown in establishing its own library. He was an active reader and appreciated the value of a strong library to a community. For many years, he served as the Chairman of the Board of the Germantown Library Foundation. In gratitude for his years of service, the Germantown Library recently named its primary collection the "C. Thomas Cates Collection."

Since moving to Germantown in 1979, Tom and Elaine have been active and devoted members of Germantown Presbyterian Church. Tom taught Sunday school for youth and adults and furthered the church's mission projects. His work with the church led him to serve as a board member, and ultimately Chairman of the Board, of NaCoMe, a Presbyterian camp and retreat center in Pleasantville, Tennessee.

As much as Tom was known for his legal and professional skills, he was also renowned for his skill as a gardener and outdoorsman. He was eager to share the bounty of vegetables he grew and to advise others of the secrets of his gardening success. Many friends, church members, neighbors, work colleagues, and even strangers enjoyed vegetables that he grew, especially his tomatoes. Every year, workers at MIFA would look forward to when he would deliver to the office a truck full of watermelon and sweet corn. He also enjoyed to fish and to hunt ducks and quail. He loved to host "fishing rodeos" at his home. He helped many children over the years catch their first fish.

He is survived by his wife Elaine; his sister Marilyn McCormick (David Spell); his children Cindy Cates Moore, Charles Cates, Jr., Taylor Cates (Carolyn), Andy Cates (Mary Allison); and his grandchildren Isabelle Moore, Lucy Moore, Amelia Cates, Thomas Cates, Campbell Cates, McCool Cates, and Wren Cates.

Memorials may be made to the Germantown Community Library, 1925 Exeter Road, Germantown, TN 38138; Germantown Presbyterian Church, 2363 S. Germantown Rd., Germantown, TN 38138; or NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center, 3232 Sulphur Creek Rd., Pleasantville, TN 37033.