Leander Earl Keck
1928 - 2024

A Service of Remembrance celebrating the faith he sought to understand clearly and live by steadily.

Marquand Chapel
Yale Divinity School
27 January 2024, 10:30am
Today’s service, planned by Lee, accents the hymnic praise of God in response to the witness of Scripture. Lee learned to sing the first hymn, “Holy God, We Praise Your Name, in German as a child in a prairie church. Bunyan’s hymn, “He Who Would Valiant Be,” was not sung there, but it aptly expresses aspects of the faith nourished there. This service’s rhythm of Scripture and hymnody remembers what Lee remembered, that the imagery of the Bible funds theology’s thought and energizes the singer’s devotion. For Lee, Wesley’s “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” was Methodism’s creed set to music.

Today’s participants touched Lee’s life in various ways. His current successor as Dean will welcome the congregation. His and Ann’s present pastor will dismiss us with a benediction. The spiritual care coordinator at Whitney Center will offer prayer. The reader of Isaiah 40 is a fellow New Testament scholar and the daughter of a dear friend and long-time colleague. Nieces will read our New Testament passages. The homilist officiated at Ann and Lee’s wedding.

Yesterday, Gerald H. Anderson, a friend since 1955 who once brought Lee to the Philippines to teach for a semester, helped lead the memorial gathering at Whitney Center.

In addition to preparing the service in great detail, Lee also prepared these notes on the service.

We are using the Revised Standard Version of the Bible for today’s service. When he began as Dean, Leander Keck’s office was the RSV room, the room where the translators met.
Order of Service

PRELUDE
Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness, BWV 654
Noah Klein
MMA ’23

CALL TO WORSHIP
“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.

WELCOME
Gregory E. Sterling
The Reverend Henry L. Slack Dean

HYMN
“All Holy God, We Praise Your Name”
first three verses
(facing page)

READING
Isaiah 40:6-8, 28-31
Teresa Morgan
McDonald Agape Professor of New Testament
and Early Christianity at YDS
Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1 Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you. All on earth your scepter claim, bow above adore you. Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

2 Hark! The celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising. Cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising, fill the heav’ns with sweet accord: “Holy, holy, holy Lord!”

3 Lo, the apostolic train join your sacred name to hallow. Prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow; and from morn to set of sun through the church the song goes on.

4 Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you, though in essence only one; undivided God we claim you and, adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.
HYMN

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
2 Open now the crystal fountain where the healing stream doth flow;
3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;

be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

REMEMBRANCES

David Keck and Stephen L. Keck

PRAYERS

Maria LaSala
Spiritual Care Coordinator, Whitney Center

READING

John 1:1-5, 14, 16, 18
Cheryl VanHoose

HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
first, second, and fourth verses
(facing page)
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit it; let us
3 Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, never — let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfect — faith-ful mer-cies crown. Jesus, thou art all com-passion, find thy promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; more thy tem-plates leave. Thee we would be always blessing; ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glory into glory,
4 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless pure, un-bounded love thou art; visit us with serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee till in heav’n we take our place, till we cast our thy sal-va-tion, enter every trembling heart. its be-ginning, set our hearts at liberty, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love. crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!
READING

Matthew 5:3-10; 11: 28-30
Cynthia Nesselroade

HYMN

“He Who Would Valiant Be”

Author: John Bunyan
READING
Romans 6:8-9; 8:31, 38-39
LaLani Green

HYMN
“Thine Is the Glory”

1 Thine is the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son; endless is the
2 Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb! Lovingly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught with-

victory thou o’er death hast won! Angels in bright raiment
greets thee, scatters fear and gloom; let his church with gladness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than conquerors,

rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes
hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth;
through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan

Refrain

where thy body lay, death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glory, risen, conqu’ring
to thy home above.

Son; endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759
HYMN

“How Firm a Foundation”

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
2. “Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
3. “When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
4. “When through fiery trials thy path-way shall lie,
5. “The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose

is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
I will not, I will not desert his foes;

What more can He say than to you He has said,
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
the flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,

to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”
Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb... There shall no more be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it.

“Shall We Gather at the River?”
(first, third, and fourth verses)

1 Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we’ll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.

3 Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev’ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.

4 Soon we’ll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.