

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF
ROBERT RIDEOUT

May 14, 1941–November 21, 2024



Saturday, December 21st, 2024
One in the Afternoon
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ROBERT RIDEOUT

The Reverend Robert B. Rideout, a long-time federal civil servant and later pediatric chaplain, died on November 21, 2024 in Columbus, Ohio. Born in Ithaca, New York on May 14, 1941, he was the son of Professor Blanchard L. Rideout and Anne Louise Rideout.

He received a BA in economics from Wesleyan University, where he was program director and general manager of the college radio station promoting classical music. Following graduation in 1963, he began his federal career at the Central Intelligence Agency. He also served as an intelligence officer in the Air Force Strategic Air Command at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. Before returning to Washington, he received a master's degree in international affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs at Princeton University. During the summer of 1968, he was one of the original "(Ralph) Nader's Raiders," undertaking with one other "raider" the initial study of the Food and Drug Administration.

He joined the federal Bureau of the Budget in 1969 as a budget examiner, part of the career staff to the President. He served there and at the successor Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for over 28 years, a career that spanned six presidencies and fourteen budget directors. He examined budgets for the Air Forces' Strategic Air Command, the National Security Council, Higher Education, and Unemployment Insurance. From 1990 until he retired, he served as OMB branch chief for federal civilian personnel programs and Executive Office of the President agencies.

Rob served as a high school youth leader at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Burke, Virginia. He helped plan meaningful programs and retreats and became a mentor to many. He became a lay chaplaincy visitor in pediatrics at INOVA Fairfax Hospital in Northern Virginia. After moving to Columbus in 2005, he completed Clinical Pastoral Education at Nationwide Children's Hospital and served as an on-site nighttime on-call chaplain from 2007 through 2019. For ten years he served as a volunteer counselor at Camp Fantastic (Special Love, Inc.), a summer program for children with cancer in Front Royal, Virginia. Of all his work, he told friends later in life, the most important and meaningful was serving as a hospital chaplain to children and their families. Some did not survive, bringing home the importance of children in our lives.

Ordained in the Episcopal Church in 2009, Rob served as Deacon, first at St. Mark's in Upper Arlington, then at St. Patrick's in Dublin, Ohio for ten years. At St. Patrick's he recruited parishioners to support the feeding program at the Friends of the Homeless shelter, tutor students at Daniel Wright Elementary School, gather winter clothing and support a summer food program for the students there. His words of dismissal at the end of each service were: "Remember to feed the hungry, give shelter to the homeless, and to visit the sick and lonely. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." His work in the church was recognized by his induction to The Society of St. Simeon & St. Anna in September 2024.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Marti Rideout of Columbus, a brother, Richard (Nan) of Raleigh, North Carolina, a daughter, Lissa Rideout Wade (Andrew) of Columbus, a son, Col. Brian Rideout (Emily), USMC (retired) of San Clemente, California, a nephew William Rideout (Catherine) of Raleigh, North Carolina, six grandchildren Cameron, Adam, and Henry Wade, Elyse, Sophia, and Samuel Rideout, grandnieces Dimney, Mary Susan, and Chandler Rideout, and cousins from Maine to Florida and Massachusetts to Washington.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in the name of Robert Rideout to:

The Mid-Ohio Food Collective

PO Box 182883, Columbus OH 43128

First Congregational Church, UCC

For the restoration and maintenance of the von Beckerath pipe organ in the Gallery

444 E. Broad Street, Columbus OH 43215

Memo: Robert Rideout Memorial

Special Love, Inc.

For children with cancer and their families

158 Front Royal Pike, Suite 301, Winchester VA 22602

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF
ROBERT RIDEOUT

PRELUDE

Herr Gott, der ein'ge Gottessohn, BWV 601

Johann Sebastian Bach

Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich, BWV 603

Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schar, BWV 607

In dulci jubilo, BWV 608

Von Gott will ich nicht lassen, BWV 658

Nimrod from *Enigma Variations*

Edward Elgar, 1899

WELCOME

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

The People stand to sing the hymn.

HYMN

Materna, Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882

"O beautiful for spacious skies"

Katharine Lee Bates, 1893

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!
who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
thine al - a - bas - ter ci - ties gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.
and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

OPENING ANTHEMS

The Rt. Rev. Kristin Uffelman White

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die.
And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to me
in faith, shall not die for ever.
As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
who is my friend and not a stranger.
For none of us has life in himself,
and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's possession.
Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

HYMN
"Give thanks for life"

Sine Nomine, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Shirley Erena Murray, 1987

Unison

1 Give thanks for life, the meas - ure of our days,
2 Give thanks for those who made their life a light
3 And for our own, our liv - ing and our dead,
4 Give thanks for hope, that, like the wheat, the grain

mor - tal, we pass through beau - ty that de - cays, yet
caught from the Christ - flame, burst - ing through the night, who
thanks for the love by which our life is fed, a
ly - ing in dark - ness does its life re - tain, in

sing to God our hope, our love, our praise:
touched the truth, who burned for what is right:
love not changed by time or death or dread:
res - ur - rec - tion to grow green a - gain:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Bishop White

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Robert. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The People are seated.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 25:6-9

Elyse Rideout, *granddaughter*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN

“Lord of all hopefulness”

Slane, Irish Ballad

Jan Struther, 1931

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our lab - ors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

**I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.**

CANTICLE: NUNC DIMITTIS

Collegium Regale, Herbert Howells, 1945

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Revelation 21:1-7

Mark DeVoll, *family friend*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them and be their God;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Lobe den Herren, Erneuerten Gesangbuch, 1665

Joachim Neander, 1680, tr. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Descant

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with
a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his
health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,
saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.
or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

The People remain standing for the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 19:13-15

The Rev. Sarah Reed

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People are seated.

HOMILY

Rev. Reed

ANTHEM

H. Walford Davies, 1910

"God be in My Head"

French Book of Hours, 1514, tr. Sarum Primer, 1558

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Cameron Wade, *grandson*
Christopher Norman, *family friend*
Brian Rideout, *son*

ANTHEM

Harold Darke, 1909

"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

Christina Rossetti, 1872

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
a breast full of milk, and a manger-full of hay;
Enough for him, whom angels, fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel, which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

THE PRAYERS

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

Leader: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**People: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Leader: God of resurrection promise,

People: Hear our prayer.

THE BLESSING

Bishop White

God be your comfort, your strength;
God be your hope and support;
God be your light and your way;
and the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life,
remain with you now and forever. **Amen.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

John Rutter, 1981
Numbers 6:24–26

“The Lord bless you and keep you”

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Rev. Livingston

Leader: Remember to feed the hungry, give shelter to the homeless,
and to visit the sick and lonely.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN AT THE RETIRING PROCESSION
"Joyful, joyful, we adore thee"

Hymn to Joy, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!
Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;
giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

POSTLUDE
Final from Symphony No. 1

Louis Vierne, 1899

*It is the custom of First Church to remain seated for the postlude.
A reception follows immediately downstairs in the Parish Hall where you may greet the family and friends.*

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rt. Rev. Kristin Uffelman White, *Bishop, Diocese of Southern Ohio*
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *Designated Minister, First Congregational Church*
The Rev. Sarah Reed, *Homilist*
The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston, *Minister*
Mr. Joshua A. Stafford, *Organist and Conductor*
Mr. James E. Bobb, *Organist*
The First Church Choir
Elyse Rideout, *Reader, Granddaughter*
Mark DeVoll, *Reader, Family friend and former SYF leader*
Cameron Wade, *Speaker, Grandson*
Christopher Norman, *Speaker, Family friend and former SYF member*
Brian Rideout, *Speaker, Son, Col. USMC (retired)*
Gregory W. Duncan, *Verger*
Gary Glover, *Verger*
Stefan Duga, *Crucifer*
Pat Patterson, *Livestream Ministry*

WELCOME STATEMENT

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation
Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation

FIRST CHURCH IS A FAITH COMMUNITY

- † Called together by God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
- † Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
- † Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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