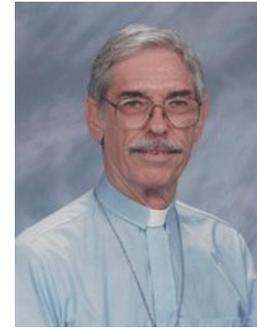


Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Austin, Texas

A Worship of Praise and Thanksgiving
for the life of
David Wayne Melber

Monday, April 18, 2022 — 11:00 am



Gethsemane Memorial Pipe Organ Prelude
Silent Prayer, Meditation, Thanksgiving for Baptism
Statement of Purpose

Hymn **“Here I Am, Lord”** ELW 574

Greeting and Prayer
First Reading

Psalm 23 (Read responsively)

L: The LORD is my shepherd;

C: I shall not be in want.

L: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures

C: and leads me beside still waters.

L: You restore my soul, O LORD,

C: and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

L: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

C: for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. *(Gloria Patri)*

Second Reading

Special Music Vocal Solo

Holy Gospel

Apostles’ Creed ELW p. 127

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn **“Borning Cry”** ELW 732

Reflections/Homily

Prayers of the People of God P: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

Lord’s Prayer

Nunc Dimittis *(Pastor & Congregation) (Congregation Stands)*

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace: according to your word; For our eyes have seen your salvation: which you have prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles: and the glory of your people of Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Benediction

Sending Forth: P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gethsemane Memorial Pipe Organ Postlude Music

David Wayne Melber of Austin, TX, was called home to our Lord on April 2, 2022 at the age of 83. David was born March 1, 1939 to Fritz and Bell Pittman Melber in Austin, TX. After graduating from McCallum High School, he attended the University of Texas at Austin on a track and field scholarship. He later received a Bachelor of Science from Concordia College, Seward Nebraska, being awarded Outstanding Student in the Academic Field of Religion and Outstanding Athlete in the Sport of Track and Field. He received a Bachelor of Divinity at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, and was ordained into the ministry on December 3, 1968. He received a Masters of Education in Special Education at West Texas State University; has done graduate work in sociology, history, and social work; and doctoral work at Austin Presbyterian Seminary. In all, he has attended fourteen schools of higher education. After approximately 10 years in the ministry, he began a career at the Department of Health and Human Services for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, and later a career as a teacher before returning to the ministry. During his life he served as a campus pastor in Illinois and Texas, a parish minister, social worker, and a teacher of special education, adult basic education, elementary/middle/high school education, continuing education in social work, and junior college instruction. He retired as pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Austin, and has since served as an interim pastor at multiple congregations.

During his seminary studies, he met Lynn Hunter. They married and had four children: Deborah, Angela, Rebecca, and Stephen. They later divorced. At his 35th high school class reunion, he re-connected with fellow classmate Ann Connally Cavett Joiner, beginning what would become a 20 year marriage. Dave retired to care full time for his wife, who has since joined the Lord.

David has published two books, and was in process of writing several others at the time of his passing. He performed multiple “gigs” over the last 40 years as an Elvis impersonator. He was a Senior Olympian participating in the high jump, long jump, triple jump, hurdles, sprints, softball, and basketball. He was an avid softball player, participating in Senior Softball-USA National Championship games, and was inducted into the Austin Senior Softball League Hall of Fame. He was a life-long political activist, marching with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Chicago, and continued to participate in multiple state and local political activities from his college years until the time of his death.

David is predeceased by his parents, Fritz and Bell Melber, his wife Ann Melber, and his sister-in-law Ruthie Melber. He is survived by his brother, Kenneth Melber of Houston, TX; daughter Deborah Drury (Gregory) of Cypress, TX; daughter Angela Kuempel (Hal) of Pflugerville, TX; daughter Rebecca Rhodes (Russell) of Cypress, TX; son Stephen Melber of Dallas, TX; grandchildren Audrey Drury, Walker Drury, Hunter Drury, Zane Kuempel, Rex Kuempel, Megan Salles, Kathryn Rhodes, Krysten Rhodes, Dylan Salles, Angelica Olvera, Cortne Baily, Cassandra Gutierrez, Mariah Melber, Brianna Olvera; five great-grand children; and multiple nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests you send donations to one of David’s favorite charities: Heifer International or Autism Speaks.

BLESSED BE THE MEMORY OF DAVID WAYNE MELBER