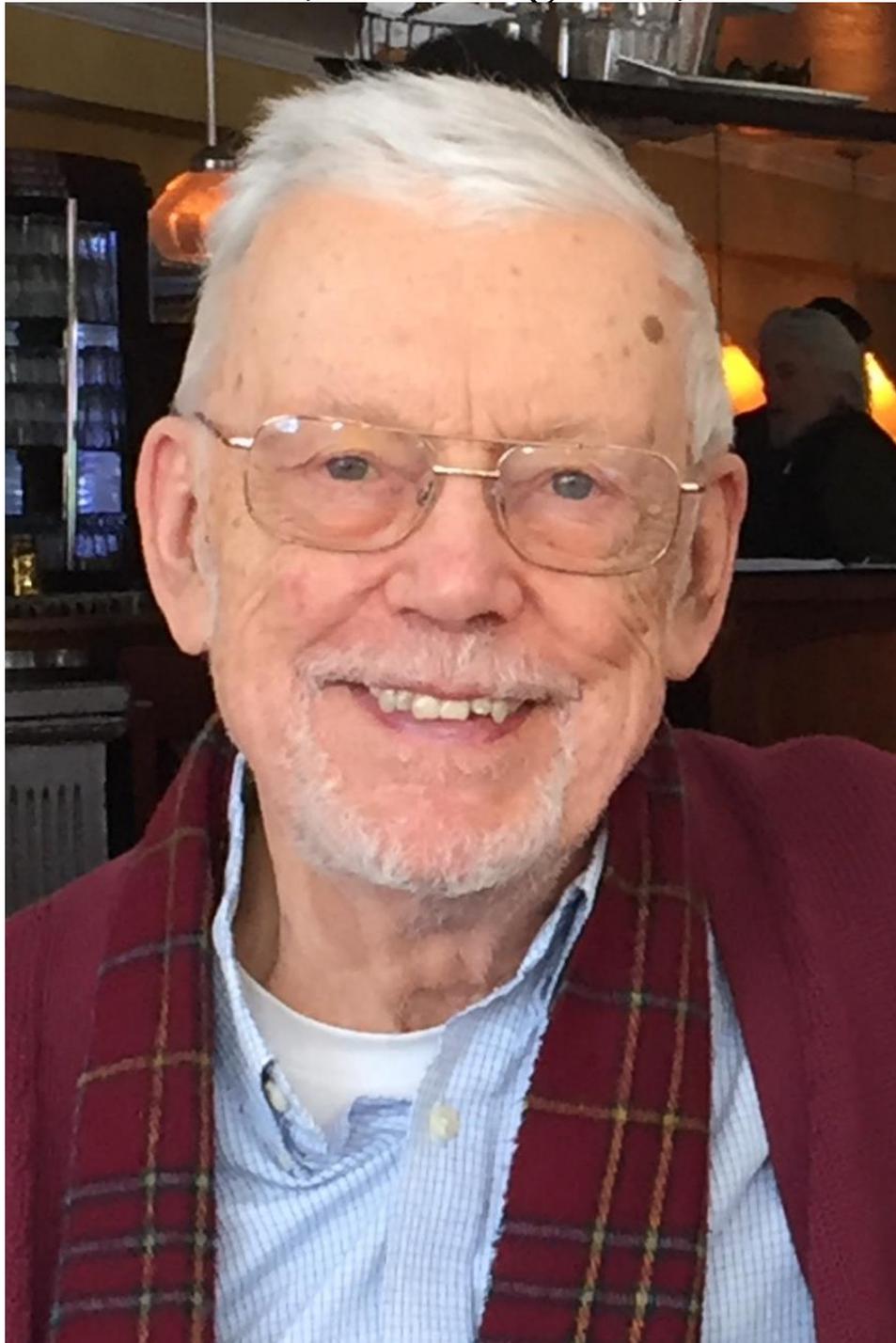


Ralph Reinhold Abele
March 12, 1933 – August 13, 2021



A Celebration of Life

Church of the Covenant
67 Newbury Street, Boston, Massachusetts
Sunday, November 7th, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

[Link for Livestream: www.cotcbos.org/this-sunday-online.html](http://www.cotcbos.org/this-sunday-online.html)

A Celebration of Life
Ralph Reinhold (Reine) Abele
March 12, 1933 – August 13, 2021

Welcome to this Celebration of Life service, we are so grateful you are here. Please observe the safety protocols of Church of the Covenant and keep your mask on at all times while you are inside the sanctuary and building. Thank you for helping us love our neighbors as ourselves during this COVID-19 pandemic. Those joining us online, please be sure to follow the YouTube Live link that will be placed in the Zoom “chat” as directed.

**All are invited to rise on their feet or in their hearts.*

Prelude *All Glory be to God on High* J. S. Bach

Welcome & Opening Prayer Rev. Rob Mark

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

***Call to Worship**

One: For with you is the fountain of life,

Many: **In your light, we see light.**

***Opening Grace**

We invite you to pray in unison this familiar “table grace” that Reine taught his family.

**For this new morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night,
for food and health and loving friends and everything thy goodness
sends, we thank thee, heavenly Creator.**

***Hymn: PH (blue) 555**

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parent’s arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God’s grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
To Maker and to Christ and Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
The God who was and is, and shall be evermore.

Scripture Reading

Sarah Perreault

Reading *Nothing Gold Can Stay - Poem by Robert Frost*

Read by Anna Abele

Hymn: PH (blue) 386

O For a World

1. O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.
2. O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.
3. We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.
5. O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Family Remembrance

Susan Abele

Family Remembrance

Mary (Dodi) Abele-Austin

Open Sharing

Closing Prayer

Rev. Rob Mark

***Hymn: PH (blue) 464**

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing foundation,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

***Closing Grace**

We invite you to pray in unison this familiar "table grace" that Reine taught his family.

Lord, bless these thy good gifts to our use and us, we pray, to thy service, and keep us mindful and responsive to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

In Thee is Gladness

J. S. Bach

During the postlude, all are invited to recess to back of sanctuary and receive a small parting gift and then proceed outside to the Berkeley Street steps for a time of greeting, and then downstairs to Bates Hall for a time of sharing memories. Bates Hall is well ventilated with new air handler and floor air filtrations units. Masks will remain required.

Service Participants

Pastor: Rev. Rob Mark, Church of the Covenant

Minister of Music: Tom Handel, Minister of Music, Church of the Covenant

Readings & Reflections from three of Elsa & Reine's Beloved Children:

Susan Abele, Mary (Dodi) Abele-Austin, Anna Abele

Scripture Reading: Sarah Perreault

Cantors: Betsy and Tim Groves

Digital Minister: Rev. Joshua Lazard, Church of the Covenant

Photographer: Mia Ulmer (image in sanctuary)

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**Ralph Reinhold Abele (Reine)**, 88 of Concord, NH, died peacefully on the afternoon of August 13, 2021, at Havenwood Heritage Heights surrounded by family and faithful caregivers. He was born on March 12, 1933, to Mary Thornton Abele and Ralph Christian Abele in Saint Louis, MO.

Reine graduated from Eden (MO) and Chicago Theological Seminary (IL). Following seminary school, Reine served as a Congregational Minister at several churches starting in Harden, MT, NE, St. Louis, Lexington, Woburn, and ultimately Jamaica Plain Boston, MA. Reine spent countless hours supporting his church fellowship and surrounding communities with his unwavering dedication to equal rights for all people. Early in his career, Reine marched with MLK, was a steadfast advocate for civil rights, and later for gay rights in Massachusetts during the time when the state was working to pass gay marriage legislation. Reine believed firmly that all humans deserve to be treated with respect, dignity and afforded equal opportunity.

During Reine's career he mentored numerous seminary students who went on to practice ministry around the country. Those students who had the good fortune to work alongside Reine no doubt continue to practice the principles of equality for all members of their communities.

Reine was the loving husband of his wife, Mary Elsa Abele who predeceased him (2019). Their marriage endured for over 50 years and was filled with love and respect for family and friends. Theirs was a truly unique relationship. Reine and Elsa took a few trips around the world with family and friends after retiring: cruising down a river to Prague, sharing adventures with friends in Turkey, exploring Jerusalem, and wandering through the art museums of Ontario Canada.

As a father, Reine loved time with his son George and daughters Susan, Mary (Dodi), and Anna. He also loved his many grandchildren(6) and looked forward to regular updates on their lives. Time with family was a fundamental part of Reine's life and he greatly enjoyed the outdoors. He spent time with loved ones on camping trips, family reunions, and on various lakes. He spent many hours in his sailing canoe on the waters of Buzzards Bay off Falmouth, MA. His children have fond memories of 'hiking up' on the old Grumman canoe as we sailed through the surf to Washburne's Island to camp (mom chose to swim rather than sail!).

Reine was a member of the Church of the Covenant in Boston, MA for many years. He enjoyed singing in the choir and appreciated the wonderful fellowship of the congregation.

There will be a memorial service at Church of the Covenant on Sunday, November 7th at 2:00. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his honor to: City Missions Society of Boston, 185 Columbia Road, Boston, MA 02121; Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 ; Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St. Boston MA 02116.

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**Church of the Covenant**  
Boston Massachusetts

**67 Newbury St., Boston MA 02116 | (617) 266-7480 | [www.cotcbos.org](http://www.cotcbos.org)**

Worship at Church of the Covenant is the heart and soul of our life together as a community of faith. Since 1932 we have been a federated church, maintaining membership in the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA) and welcoming pilgrims and inquirers from all traditions to our life and work. Through our prayer and praise, in our concerns and celebrations, by word and sacrament, art and silence, we seek empowerment, together and individually, as a covenant people, for the work of Christ.

Jesus taught that the Spirit invites all people, including society's outcasts, to enjoy seats at God's table. This congregation seeks to demonstrate that vision by welcoming individuals and families without regard to race, gender identity, age, physical/mental condition, or sexual orientation. We rejoice in the presence of children among us, and we strive to include them in our ministry. We maintain ties of faith with the Church of the Poor in the community of the Sweet Name of Jesus, in Northwestern Nicaragua.

We believe God's blessings are found in marriage equality for all. Thus, we joyfully welcome the opportunity afforded us by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church USA to join couples of all sexual orientations in fully legal and holy marriage.

In our worship we use language and imagery that reflect the wonderful diversity of the image of God in humanity and all of creation; that transcend the exclusive language of the church's past. And as stewards, we seek to live into the Spirit's blessing as we move in solidarity on this shared and sacred, common home we call earth. We invite you to join us in the journey toward God's justice and peace for all of Boston and beyond!

**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Rob Mark, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Joshua Lazard, *Associate Pastor*

Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*

Bill Brown, *Building Manager*

Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator / Parish Administrator*

Nancy Stockford, *Financial Secretary*

Fred Lopes, *Sunday Sexton*

Alan Lane, *Food Cupboard Coordinator*

**CHURCH OFFICERS**

Liz Vizza, *President of the Corporation*

Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*

Anita Gram, *Moderator of Board of Deacons*

Faith Perry, *Treasurer*