



**A Service to Celebrate the Life of  
Stephen Hayes  
October 19, 1944—May 15, 2021**

First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, UCC  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

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**October 19, 1944 - May 15, 2021**

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

*Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.*

John 11:25-6

Prelude

Pictures and Music from Stephen's life\*

Opening Words of Promise and Welcome

*No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome in this place.*

Call to Worship..... **Psalm 139**

Leader: Where can we go to get away from God's spirit?  
Where can we flee from the divine presence?

**People: If I ascend to heaven, you are there.  
If I make my life hell, you are there.**

Leader: If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle in the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead and hold me fast.

**People: If I allow darkness to cover me  
and the light around me becomes as night,  
even then your light transforms the darkness to light  
and the night is as bright as day.**

Leader: For you know me and love me,  
and when I come to the end, I am still with you.

Opening Hymn

Amazing Grace

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

Greeting

A Time of Prayer and Unison Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.**

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

**23rd Psalm in Unison**

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul.**

**He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Yea, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

New Testament

Epistle I Corinthians 15:51-55.....Read by James Mathias

Gospel I Corinthians 13:1-13

Sermon

“What a Smile”

Rev. Mark Mendes

A Time of Sharing

Memories, Stories and Sentiments from Family and Friends

Daniel Brassard, *grandchild*

Jenna Brassard, *grandchild*

Jacob Brassard, *grandchild*

**Affirmation of Faith [Romans 8]**

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we know that in everything God works for good with those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor heights, nor depths, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Closing Hymn

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.**

**When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.  
Should you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.**

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.**

Commendation

Pastoral Benediction.....The Irish Blessings

Congregational Choral Benediction.....Go Now in Peace

Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

Postlude

On Eagles' Wings

*\* The pictures and music of Stephen Hayes's life may also be viewed online:*

<https://youtu.be/tbmuK7d8WM8>

*\*\* After the service, everyone is invited to the final Committal at Fairview cemetery in Essex Junction and then back to J.P.'s for a time of fellowship and food as we all gather to support Stephen's family and share our stories about him.*