

A Celebration of Life
Eric Bryan Kiss
June 28, 1978 – October 31, 2026

November 7, 2026
First Congregational United Church of Christ
945 G Street NW, Washington, DC

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Meditation* Daniel Light

WELCOME Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

OPENING PRAYER Rev. Sam McFerran

*OPENING HYMN "In the Bulb There is a Flower" page 5

SCRIPTURE READING Stephanie Sawhney
Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" And the lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus replied, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, the lawyer asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and, seeing him, was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then the Samaritan put him on his own animal, brought him to the inn and took care of him. The next day the Samaritan took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the one who fell into the hands of robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

"BLESSING FOR THE BROKENHEARTED" by JAN RICHARDSON Erin & Ken Gross
Let us agree for now that we will not say
the breaking makes us stronger
or that it is better to have this pain
than to have done without this love.

Let us promise we will not tell ourselves
time will heal the wound,
when every day our waking
opens it anew.

Perhaps for now it can be enough
to simply marvel at the mystery
of how a heart so broken

can go on beating,
as if it were made for precisely this—

as if it knows the only cure for love
is more of it,
as if it sees the heart's sole remedy
for breaking is to love still,

as if it trusts that its own
persistent pulse is the rhythm
of a blessing we cannot begin to fathom
but will save us nonetheless.

TIME FOR REMEMBRANCE		Rev. Sam McFerran Andrew Kiss Michael Kiss Anna Kiss Laura J. Steele-Liebman
*SONG OF RESPONSE	"How Can I Keep from Singing?" *Verses 1, 2, & 4* Casey Capsambelis, vocals	page 6
PRAYER		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
COMMENDATION		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
*CLOSING SONG	"I've Got Peace Like a River"	page 7
BENEDICTION		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
POSTLUDE	*O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*	arr. Lloyd Larson

Music reprinted with permission by One License A-720443.
* Indicates "Please Rise in Body or in Spirit"

A reception will follow the service in the Community Hall on the second floor with some of Eric's favorite foods and treats.

Memorial Donations

In lieu of flowers, the Kiss family invites you to honor Eric's life by supporting one of these organizations:

- **WETA** - Our local public broadcasting station, which Eric personally supported and valued.
- **Tommy's Pantry** - A nonprofit dedicated to helping families facing food insecurity by providing food, hygiene products, and other household essentials.

Eric Bryan Kiss
June 28, 1978 – October 31, 2026



Eric Bryan Kiss, 48, of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away peacefully on October 31, 2026, following a brief and aggressive battle with cancer.

Eric was born on June 28, 1978, in Franklin, Pennsylvania, to Joseph A. Kiss and Alberta Jean Kiss. He grew up in Rocky Grove, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Rocky Grove High School.

A lifelong learner with an extraordinary intellect, Eric earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Penn State University-Behrend, a master's degree in electrical engineering from Penn State University, and a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from George Washington University Law School.
Eric dedicated 24 years to federal service at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), where he worked as a Primary Patent Examiner in the Central Reexamination Unit. His analytical mind, technical knowledge, writing, and thoughtful approach to problem-solving suited him well for this profession.

Quiet and reserved by nature, Eric was exceptionally intelligent, patient, gentle, and kind. Behind his introverted exterior was a wonderful wit and a mischievous streak that those closest to him knew well. He was both a rule follower and an independent thinker, with a love of documentaries, *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, IPA beer, and most recently HopLark Citra – a water with hops.

An engineer at heart, Eric was almost always working on an electronics project, and even in his last days at home in early October, he took apart his original Kindle to try to bring it to life once more. He built dozens of guitar pedals, made guitar picks from turtle scutes and later cicada wings, and even taught himself Japanese. His curiosity and creativity often took him in unexpected directions. Eric also had his memorable quirks, including his remarkable ability to leave cabinet doors open.

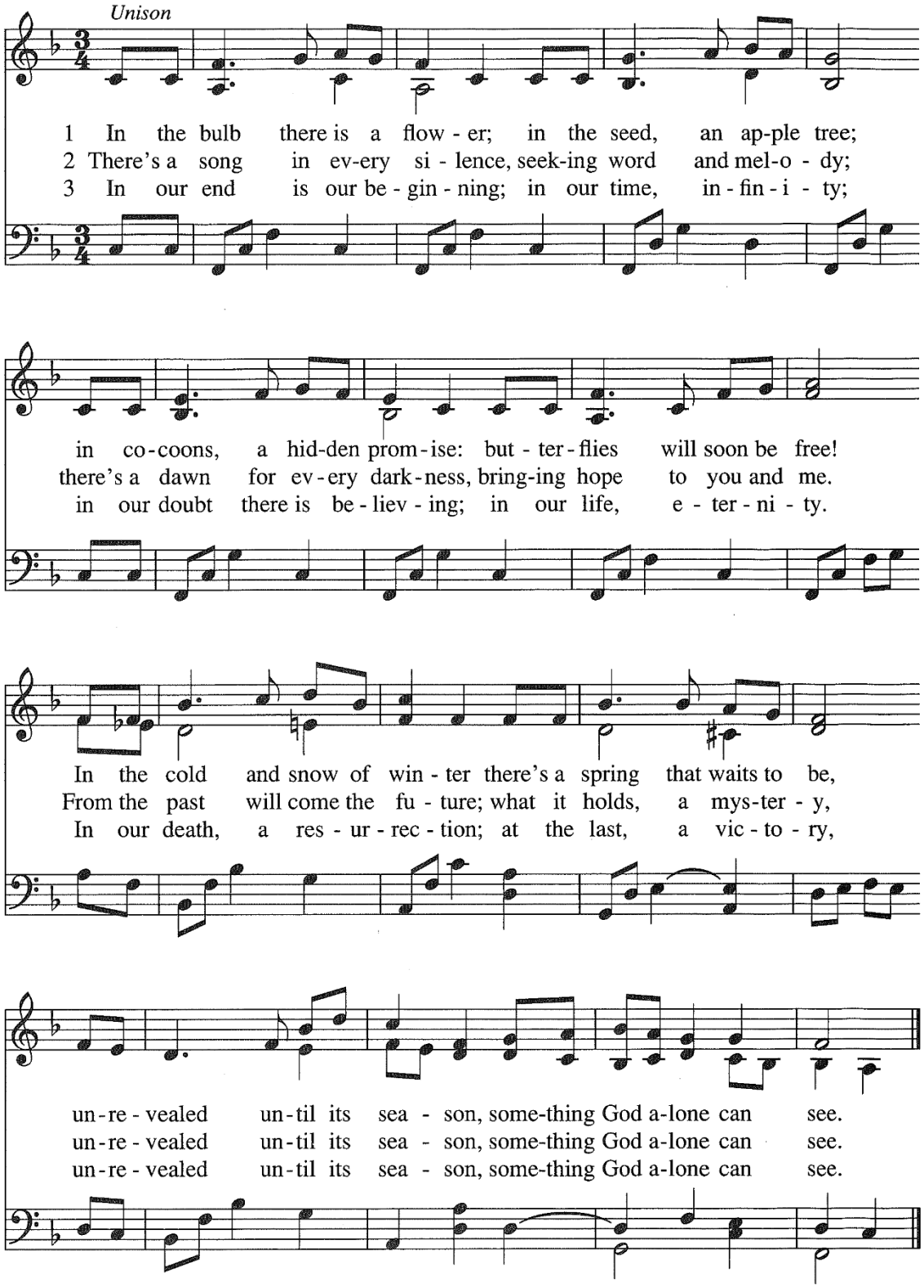
Eric and Anna have lived in Alexandria, Virginia, since 2002 and were married in Lakewood, Ohio, in 2004. As a father to Riley and Archer, Eric shared his curiosity, humor, and love of the wonderfully absurd. Watching *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, especially on Thanksgiving, and *Emmett Otter's Jug Band Christmas* became favorite family traditions.

Eric held progressive values and believed in fairness, kindness, and respect for others. Though he rarely sought attention, his gentle nature, intelligence, and quiet humor left a lasting impression on those who knew him.

Eric is survived by his wife, Anna; their children, Riley and Archer; his mother, Alberta Jean Kiss of Sebring, Florida, and father, Joseph A. (Cynthia) of Erie, Pennsylvania; his brothers, Michael Kiss (Dixie) of Freeport, Pennsylvania, and Andrew Kiss of Coopers City, Florida; and his aunts, Georgine Heckathorne of Oil City, and Kay Vogus of Titusville, Pennsylvania. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Milena Hope Kiss; his uncle, Ted Vogus of Titusville, Pennsylvania; and his grandparents.

433 In the Bulb There Is a Flower

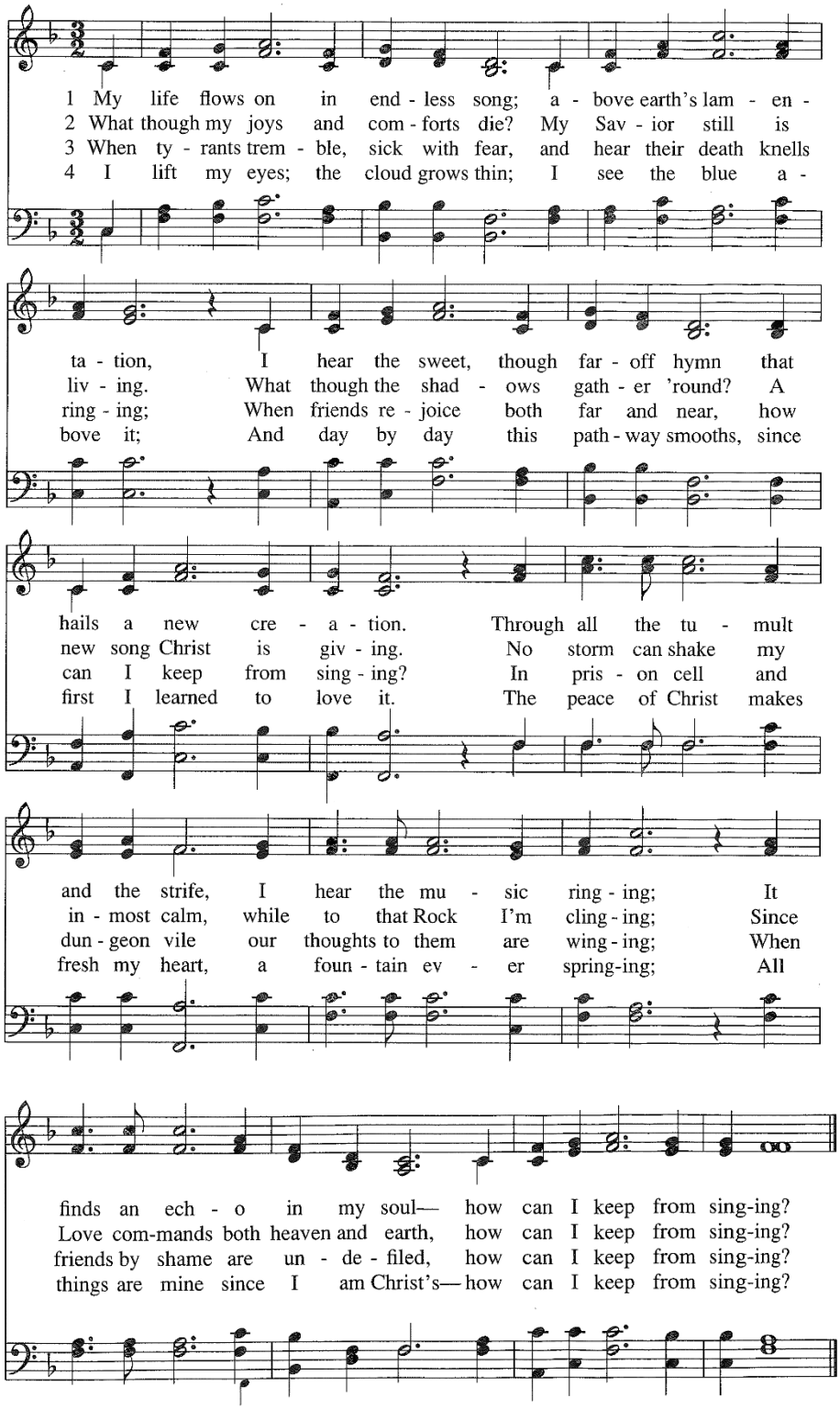
Natalie Sleeth, 1985



476 My Life Flows on in Endless Song
(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1–7; 1 Cor. 3:21–23; 2 Cor. 5:17

Anon. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School, *ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.*
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957



478 I've Got Peace Like a River

Isa. 66:12; 1 Pet. 1:8–9; 1 John 4:7–12

African-American spiritual

