



Michael Edward Purdy

April 10, 1954 – August 2, 2023

Holy God of grace and mercy,
we belong to you in body, soul, and spirit.

As we walk this uncertain
and often rocky path,
remind us that you are with us
each step of the way.

Teach us to number our days,
to hold each one lightly,
knowing you are the Lord of the journey.

May we sense and know your calling for us in this season of life.

Enfold us with your love and
bring us joy on our journey,
even as we experience sadness and grief.

From Mike's memoir *Reflections of an Uncertain Journey*

Memorial Service
A Time to Celebrate and Remember
With Gratitude the Life of
Michael Edward Purdy

August 26, 2023, 3:00 pm
1818 Queen Anne Ave. North, Seattle, Washington 98109

Prelude

Sylvia Oines

Welcome

Jeff Van Duzer

Opening Prayer

A Moment of Silence

Hymn *For All the Saints*

For all the saints who from their labors rest
Who thee by faith before the world confessed
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest
Alleluia! Alleluia

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light
Alleluia! Alleluia

O blest communion, fellowship divine
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine
Alleluia! Alleluia

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong
Alleluia! Alleluia

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Alleluia! Alleluia

Scripture Reading [John 11:1-27](#)

Kimberlee Conway Ireton

Reflections and Memories

Family

Hymn *Be Thou My Vision*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light
Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my soul's shelter, and Thou my high tower
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power
Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art
High King of Heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

Meditation

Reflections and Memories

Friends

Jennifer Weber, Jo Dee Ahmann, Frank Holman

Song *10,000 Reasons*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes *(Chorus)*

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find *(Chorus)*

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore *(Chorus)*

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Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

Michael Edward Purdy

April 10, 1954 – August 2, 2023

As a husband, father, grandfather, manager, historian, and writer, Mike had a profound impact on those around him. He was kind and gentle, an optimist, a deep listener, intelligent, and found humor in life. He saw all of life as ultimately theological and sought daily to live out his faith in his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Mike was born to Allen Roger Kirschner and Louise Anne (Lynch Winter) Kirschner, in Akron, Colorado, where his father taught English at the local high school. A little over a month after his birth, the family, including his older brother Stephen Allen, moved to New York for a few months to be closer to Mike's paternal grandparents (Jack and Frances Kirschner), then to Greenwich, Connecticut until 1961, when they moved to Princeton, New Jersey where Mike's father took a position as chairman of the English department at Princeton High School. In May of 1964, with his parents' marriage disintegrating, his mother moved with Mike and Steve to California, where she had grown up.

Mike graduated from San Marino High School where he served as ASB president. After graduation in 1972, Mike attended the University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, WA), where he was elected student body president. He served as a congressional intern in Washington, DC in the summer of 1973 during the Watergate scandal and sat in on hearings of the Senate Watergate Committee. He graduated in 1976 with a double major in business administration and public administration.

After graduating, he met his wife, Catherine, and they were married in May 1978. He obtained a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Puget Sound in 1979. Upon graduation, he embarked on what would become a 30-year career managing government contracts, first for the City of Seattle for more than 21 years, then the Seattle Housing Authority, and finally the University of Washington (UW).

Mike and Catherine moved to West Seattle in 1980, where they bought a house and started their family. They had two children, Janet (1982) and David (1985). During the 1980s, with significant support from Catherine, he also obtained a Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Mike retired as contracts manager from the UW in February 2010 and launched a successful public contracting consulting business for the next decade, advising government agencies, providing training, and writing a popular industry blog.

In retirement, Mike also launched another career as a U.S. presidential historian, creating the presidentialhistory.com website, authoring two books, writing articles, and participating in media interviews.

After being diagnosed with cancer in 2019, he struggled with the emotional and spiritual roller-coaster of terminal illness. With the support of his wife, Catherine, other family members, and many friends, he sought to find joy on the journey while pondering his legacy in the world. In 2022, he wrote a candid memoir about his “uncertain journey.”

Mike was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Catherine; daughter Janet Purdy of Jordanville, NY; son David Purdy (Melissa) of Seattle, WA; grandson Michael Purdy; brother Steve Kirschner of Oceano, CA; sister Tambra Faezeli of Portland, OR; cousin Alex Enneking (Paul) of Granite Bay, CA; cousin Patrick Lynch of Santa Cruz, CA; other relatives, and a host of dear friends across the country and Canada with whom he was privileged to walk through this life.

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The family requests that remembrances in Mike’s name be made to:

Regent College Foundation
<https://rcfusa.org/>

The Hun School – Allen Kirschner Scholarship Fund
<https://www.hunschool.org/>

Langham Partnership
<https://us.langham.org/>