

A Service of Celebration and
Thanksgiving for the Life of

Howard E. Sprout

June 14, 1947 – February 6, 2025



Asylum Hill Congregational Church
Hartford, CT
March 8, 2025 - 2:00 pm

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC | *Selig sind, die da Leid tragen* from *Ein Deutsches Requiem, Op. 45*,
Johannes Brahms | This video is an excerpt from the Brahms Requiem presentation
created and presented by Howard for the Adult Learning Program (ALP) UCONN
affiliated and taught at Seabury. The text comes from Matthew 5:4 and Psalm 126:5-6.

PRELUDE | *Fugue in G Minor* by J.S. Bach | J. Ray Sprout, organ

WORDS OF GRACE AND GREETING | *Rev. Erica Thompson*

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP | *Psalm 98*

One: O sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things!

All: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

One: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

All: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the ruler, the Lord!

One: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell in it.

All: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord.

OPENING HYMN #2 | *The God of Abraham Praise*

READING | *Psalm 39* | *Martin Hirsh, friend*

GIFT OF MUSIC | *Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen* from *Ein Deutsches Requiem*,
Op. 45, *Johannes Brahms* | *AHCC Sanctuary Choir*

(sung in German) How lovely are thy dwelling places, O Lord of Hosts! My soul requires and yearns for the courts of the Lord; My body and soul rejoice in the living God. How lovely are thy dwelling places, O Lord of Hosts! Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; they praise you forever. How lovely are thy dwelling places!

READING | *Sonnet 73* by *William Shakespeare* | *Joanna Sprout Engel, daughter*

GIFT OF MUSIC | *Kaddish* from *Deux Mélodies Hébraïques* by *Maurice Ravel* |

Jack A. Pott, tenor; Susan Carroll, piano

(sung in Aramaic) May His great name be magnified and sanctified in the world that He created according to His will. And may He establish His Kingdom during your life and during your days and during the life of all the house of Israel, speedily and in the near future. And say Amen.

Blessed, praised, glorified, exalted, extolled, honored, adored, and lauded be the Name of the Holy One; blessed be He, more exalted than all blessings and hymns, praises and songs that are uttered in the world. And say Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING | *Matthew 5:1-12*

HOMILY | *Rev. Erica Thompson*

GIFT OF MUSIC | ***Andante Cantabile String Quartet No. 1 in D Major, Op. 11***

by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky | Jaroslaw Lis and Martha Kayser, violins; Arthur Masi, viola; Katie Kennedy, cello

REMEMBRANCES | *Ray Sprout, brother*

Cynthia Bell, sister

Karen Sprout, wife

MUSICAL REMEMBRANCE | ***You Will Remember Vienna from Viennese Nights***

by Oscar Hammerstein II and Sigmund Romberg | Howard Sprout, baritone; Carol Allen, piano

CLOSING PRAYER & WORDS OF COMMENDATION

GIFT OF MUSIC | ***Nunc Dimittis*** by Morten Luvaas | AHCC Sanctuary Choir

(This piece was written by one of the earliest directors of the Allegheny College choir and is still sung at the conclusion of most of their concerts.)

CLOSING HYMN #26 | ***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*** | John Charles Thomas, trumpet

MILITARY HONORS | ***Taps*** | John Charles Thomas, trumpet

POSTLUDE | ***Fantasy on O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*** by Mark Thallander |

Susan Carroll, organ

Howard's family would like to thank all those whose ideas and labor came together for today. Thank you to the Asylum Hill Church for hosting, and to Jack Pott and Rev Erica for their leadership. We offer extra gratitude to Jack for his gift of singing and the handling of all the musical and projection details of this service, and to your Care Team helpers as well as the technicians for handling sound and projections and to Susan Carroll on the organ and piano. And to both Jack and Erica for meeting with Howard and me, literally at his bedside as ideas were discussed. Thank you also to the musicians who shared their talent, vocal or instrumental, and have expressed their affection and respect for Howard. And finally to all of you – our village for being here. We feel lifted up on a cloud of energy and love. We hope everyone will join us at the reception immediately following the service in Drew Hall.

That Time of Year Thou Mayest in Me Behold
(Sonnet 73)
by William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

That time of year thou mayst in me behold
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
Bare ruined choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.

In me thou see'st the twilight of such day
As after sunset fadeth in the west;
Which by and by black night doth take away,
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.

In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire,
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,
As the deathbed whereon it must expire,
Consumed with that which it was nourished by.

This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong,
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.

(Howard kept a copy of this sonnet in his wallet from the time he was 17 years old.)

Howard E. Sprout

Howard E. Sprout, 77, of Bloomfield CT, died on Thursday, February 6, 2025. He had been diagnosed at age 47 with metastatic prostate cancer, complications of which were the ultimate cause of death. Thanks to his proactive approach, indomitable spirit, and the skilled medical teams at Hartford HealthCare and the Connecticut VA, he thrived for most of those thirty years. Howard was born in Muncy, PA to Joseph and Bernice

(Wren) Sprout in 1947. He graduated from Allegheny College with a BA in Music in 1969. Allegheny College was very dear to him, and he remained an active alum his whole life. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he served for two years stateside followed by 9 months of service in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged in 1972, and went on to enroll in Hartt College, obtaining a MA in Vocal Performance in 1974 and an Artists Diploma in Opera in 1979. He was also Artist in Residence at Connecticut Opera during this time. For the next 35 years he taught and performed regionally throughout New England and internationally. He was a frequent soloist of classical and pops repertoire with the Hartford Chorale, The Litchfield County Choral Union, CONCORRA, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and other regional musical ensembles. Howard was a soloist at many area churches, most notably at Westminster Presbyterian Church where he was a member for over 25 years. Howard's "day job" was in data processing for 20 years at Bank of America. He retired in 2005 due to the progression of his illness. In his personal life, Howard loved to travel with his wife Karen and daughter Joanna. In retirement, Howard enjoyed an evening at the grill on his patio in the company of family and friends – most especially his "best friend," his dog Bruno. A great source of joy and pride in his later years was teaching with the UCONN Adult Learning Program, where he delivered classes on the works of the great classical composers. Howard is survived by his wife of 44 years, Karen (Johnson) Sprout, his daughter Joanna (Sprout) Engel and her wife Miriam Engel of West Hartford, CT, his brother Joseph Ray Sprout and his wife Ruth Sprout, of Portville, NY and sister Cynthia (Sprout) Bell and her husband, Steven Bell of Shinglehouse, PA. He also leaves his grandchildren, Laura June and Evan Howard Engel, his sister-in-law, Kathryn Johnson of Washington, DC, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in honor of Howard may be made to support the Allegheny College Choral Fund, or to The Hartford Symphony Orchestra. For the full obituary and online condolences, please visit carmonfuneralhome.com

Rev. Erica Thompson, *Senior Minister*
Jack A. Pott, *Director of Music & Arts*
Susan Carroll, *Organist & Assistant Director of Music & Arts*



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