



OBITUARY

Richard A. Symes

October 12, 1930 – April 3, 2020

The Reverend Dr. Richard A. Symes died on April 3 from cardiac arrest after a long battle with Alzheimer’s Disease. He

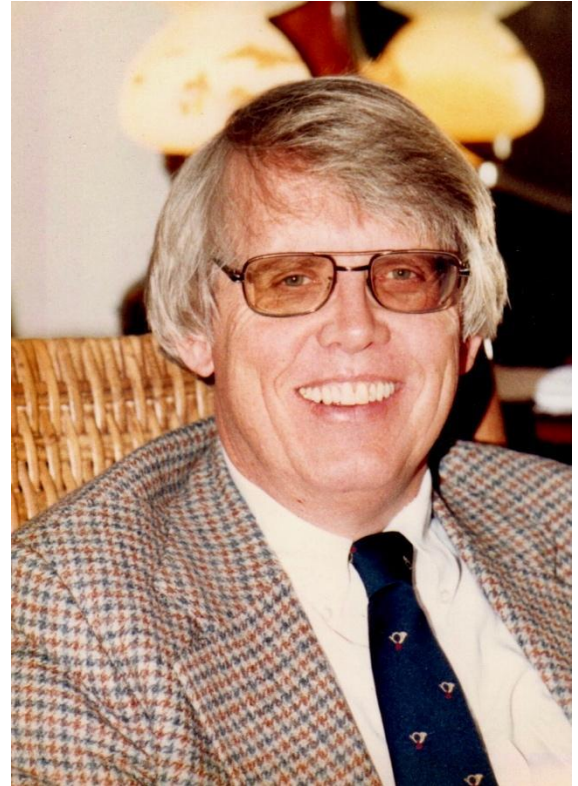
leaves his wife of 60 years, Patricia, and two sons, Christopher and Preston, and Preston’s wife, Jennifer, two grandchildren, Cooper and Ruby, and his sister Barbara Jones. He was predeceased by an infant son, Mark.

A graduate of Columbia College, BA; Princeton Seminary, B.D.; and San Francisco Theological Seminary, S.T.D., he served parishes in Detroit, Michigan; New York City; Palo Alto, California; and Caracas, Venezuela. Before he began parish ministry he spent a year in Germany, including a semester at the University in Bonn. He also served on national committees of the Presbyterian Church. Churches he served became More Light (LGBTQ inclusive) and Sanctuary churches; and he, along with members of the congregations, marched for civil rights and in protest of the Vietnam War. He served as a volunteer prison chaplain in New York and a visitor to the local federal prison in retirement. Throughout his whole ministry, he worked for justice.

Despite his antiwar stance he collected and painted miniature soldiers. He was a scholar as well as a teacher and reader – including both Dostoyevsky and G.B. Trudeau (“Doonesbury”). Dick made terrible puns and sometimes used salty language. Dick and Pat retired to Granville, NY on the property where he had built (with help) a summer cabin in 1973. They traveled extensively in the early years of retirement, particularly in Italy. He added Italian to other languages he had acquired. He loved life and his departure from this world is mourned by many.’

Join many others in raising a toast to a life well-lived!

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE



REV. RICHARD A. SYMES
October 20, 1930 – April 3, 2020

“God has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does God require of you?

But to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8



First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto
1140 Cowper Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301
October 16, 2021 | 2:00pm

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude	Dr. Andrew Chislett
Introit Music	“Be Still, My Soul” “This is my Song” (Finlandia) Joe Meyers, Soloist
Words of Welcome	Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow
Call to Worship	Rev. Dr. Diana C. Gibson
Hymns	“When the Saints go Marching In” Bryn Terfel, Recording “For All the Saints” Joe Meyers, Soloist
Prayer of Invocation	Rev. Rebecca Strader
Scripture Readings	Isaiah 25: 6-10 Craig Wiesner Luke 4:16-20 Derrick Kikuchi
Reading	“White Owl Flies Into and Out of the Field” by Mary Oliver
Anthem	“Guide Us, O Thou Great Jehovah” Bryn Terfel & Mormon Tabernacle Choir Recording, “Homeward Bound”
Reflections	The Life and Wisdom of Dick Symes
Musical Meditation	“Pie Jesu” Recording of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Requiem, Sung by Sarah Brightman and Paul Miles-Kingston
Community Sharing	Memories and Thanksgiving
Hymn	“Lift Every Voice and Sing” Craig McCreight, Soloist
Prayer and Commendation	
Musical Offering	“Amazing Grace” Fred Payne, Bagpiper
Blessing and Benediction	
Postlude	“Highland Cathedral” Bagpipes and Organ



The Symes family is thankful to everyone for being here today, in person and on Zoom.

Please join for a reception immediately following the service for a time of community, sharing, and to raise a toast to Dick!

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Dr. Andrew Chislett, Music Director of FPCPA
Rev. Dr. Diana C. Gibson, former pastor of FPCPA (1984-2000), Co-pastor with Dick Symes for several years, colleague, and a friend of the family.
Derrick Kikuchi and Craig Wiesner, parishioners at FPCPA including while Dick Symes was here, and friends of the family. Derrick and Craig were married by Dick Symes and Diana Gibson in 1990, the first same-sex marriage celebrated at FPCPA.
Craig McCreight, parishioner at FPCPA when Dick Symes was here. Dick loved to listen to Craig sing, along with all the other soloists from the choir, and the choir as a whole!
Joe Meyers, Soloist
Fred Payne, Bagpiper
Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, current pastor, FPCPA
Rev. Rebecca Strader, Honorably Retired pastor in Oregon, Christian Education Consultant FPCPA (1978-1981), and a friend of the family.



MEMORIAL GIFTS:

Gifts in honor of Dick Symes may be sent to:
Ecumenical Hunger Program: EHP provides compassionate, dignified, and practical assistance to families and individuals, and advocacy for our neighbors in need in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and surrounding communities.

Donate at www.ehpcares.org or mail a check to:
2411 Pulgas Avenue, East Palo Alto, 94303.

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship: PPF’s call is to be movers and shakers within the PC(USA) and beyond, encouraging one another to take seriously God’s call to God’s nonviolent work of love, peace, and justice in the world.

Donate at www.presbypeacefellowship.org or mail a check to: 17 Cricketown Road, Stony Point, NY 10980.