

In Loving Memory



Rev. Dr.
David C. Gregg

Nov 30, 1966 - Jun 26, 2025

August 30, 2025 at 1 PM
North Shore Baptist Church
5244 N Lakewood Ave
Chicago, IL 60640

Order of Service

Introit

A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall
Bob Dylan

Welcome

Rev. Kathryn Ray
*Pastor, North Shore
Baptist Church (NSBC)*

Opening Prayer

Rev. Dr. Catherine Burris-Schnur
*Center for Religion & Psychotherapy of
Chicago, Lake Street Church*

Professional Acknowledgements

- Rev. Frank Walton, President
American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
- Rev. Dr. Naomi Mitchell, Vice President & Chicago President
Ministers Council
- Rev. Saeed Richardson, Chief Technology & Security Officer
American Baptist Home Mission Societies
- Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA
- Rev. Nikita McCalister, President
Board of General Ministries, ABCUSA

Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Rev. Nikita McCalister

Hymn

Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go
George Matheson

Note from David & Reflection

Dr. Sara Gregg Barnes
Sister

Musical Tribute

Swedish Folk Tune

Mr. Patrik Ahlberg
Close Friend

Remembering David

- Ms. Sarah Hanson, *Friend*
- Dr. Richard Rosengarten, *Doctoral Advisor & Friend*
- Mr. Timothy Pantoja, *Friend*
- Mr. Peter Ocko, *Friend*

Meditation *Aria from Goldberg Variation, BWV 988* Mr. Randall Fleer
Johann Sebastian Bach *Organist, NSBC*
After the musical meditation, let us remain in a spirit of stillness rather than applause.

Scripture Reading *Ecclesiastes 3:1-15* Rev. Douglas Harris
Friend

Hymn *I Feel the Winds of God Today*
Jessie Adams

Eulogy & Words of Comfort

Rev. Dr. Tim Phillips
Friend & Colleague

Hymn *How Can I Keep From Singing*

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque
Former ABCMC Board Member

Postlude Mr. Randall Fleer

*You are invited to join the Gregg family after the service in Howell Hall
for refreshments and fellowship.*



Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that follows all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me thru' pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow thru' the rain
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

I Feel the Winds of God Today

I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love
and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
you will not let me drift;
I feel the winds of God today,
today my sail I lift.

How Can I Keep From Singing

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

R: No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

In prison cell and dungeon vile
our thoughts to them are winging
When friends by shame are undefiled
How can I keep from singing? **R**

What though my joys and comforts die,
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **R**

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **R**



Special Thanks

We extend our heartfelt gratitude
to the following churches,
individuals, and organizations for
their contributions to this service:

North Shore Baptist Church
ABC Metro Chicago
Second Baptist Church of Evanston
Office of the General Secretary
Rev. Dr. Mark Bradley
Rev. Dr. Larry Greenfield
Eduardo's Catering
VIP Valet Service



The family suggests contributions to these organizations in David's honor:

- American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
- Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists
- Sympara



Giving Details

Obituary

We are deeply saddened to share the news that Rev. David C. Gregg, PhD, Regional Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago, passed away on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at the age of 58. A scholar, pastor, and mentor, David lived with warmth, wit, and a generous heart.

David grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where his love for learning and connection began early. Family was especially important to him, and he loved cooking as part of his fellowship with both family and friends. The kitchen was a stage for both culinary adventure and deep connection, and where he enjoyed many celebrations. Dinner parties at the Gregg household were laughter-rich evenings where new recipes, earnest conversation, and genuine hospitality were in abundance. David's devotion to friends mirrored that of a family builder, bringing people together with open arms and open hearts. In every role—scholar, pastor, host—his love for people was the constant thread.

David especially loved travel and adventure, looking forward to trips with his sister and three nephews each summer. These trips took them out east, out west, and many places in between. Most recently was a trip last summer to Virginia and white-water rafting on the New River. Growing up, he especially cherished family vacations to National Parks across the country, where he developed a lifelong appreciation for the beauty and wonder of the natural world.

David's academic journey took him through Harvard (BA), the University of Michigan (MA in English), and the University of Chicago Divinity School (MDiv and PhD). He edited the latest edition of *A Baptist Manual of Polity and Practice* and shaped countless seminarians' understanding of Baptist governance. Serving first at Lake Street Church in Evanston for 10 years, then in many interim positions, and finally as Regional Executive Minister from January 2019 until his final days, he guided a diverse regional community through milestones of growth, social justice efforts, and the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Obituary Continued

Colleagues remember David for his sharp intellect and gentle humor. Yet beneath that wit was a kindness that anchored congregations through change, uncertainty, and hardship. His leadership was not distant; it was pastoral—offering comfort, courage, and a ready smile.

During his time leading ABCMC, David launched the Prophetic Witness Committee, a bold initiative committed to social justice. He guided congregations through the existential trials of a pandemic with pastoral care, transparency, and resolve. Whether by editing policy handbooks or comforting a grieving member, he embodied servant leadership. He served on the board of the Association for Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.

David survives with his loving sister, Sara Barnes; stepsister, Kate Santini (Paul); and stepmother, Mary Gregg. He was a proud uncle to his nephews Colin, Alex, and Scott, and niece, Emma. As well as his close friend Patrik Ahlberg. He also leaves behind a host of cousins who were dear to him. He was predeceased by his father, Ron Gregg, and his mother, Martha Ball.

David Gregg leaves behind a legacy far richer than positions held or honors earned. It lives on in the seminarians he mentored, the congregations he nurtured, the justice-focused initiatives he championed—and in every friend and family member who was welcomed to his table. He believed hospitality is ministry in its most elemental form—and he practiced it with style, substance, and great affection.

We give thanks for this generous life.

Rest now, David. The warmth of your heart, the strength of your kindness, and the sparkle of your wit will continue to guide and inspire all who were blessed to know you.





American Baptist Churches
of **Metro Chicago**