

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

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Officiant: Rev. Dr. Tim McConnell  
Musicians: Rev. Matt Holtzman  
Chase and Elisabeth Cornelius  
Coordinator: Rev. Linda Boyles



**Psalm 23**

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.  
He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup runs over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.*



*Service to Celebrate  
the Life of  
Phillip Robert "Bob" Simpich  
January 25, 1926 – August 15, 2020*



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

Online: [firstprescos.org/watch](https://firstprescos.org/watch)  
Sanctuary: 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Center: 9:30 a.m.



Thursday, September 3, 2020 • 10:30 a.m.  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

## *Order of Service*

### **Prelude**

**Solo,** “*Find Us Faithful*”

### **Greetings and Opening Prayer**

### **Call to Worship by Readings**

*Isaiah 40:1–5* — Polly Layton

*Isaiah 40:9–11* — Joe Simpich

*Isaiah 40:28–31* — Charlie Simpich

**Solo,** “*He Will Hold Me Fast*”

### **Scripture Reading**

*John 15:5–11* — Mike Lambert Sr.

*John 15:12–17* — Mike Lambert Jr.

### **Family Remembrance**

Reg Simpich, David Simpich

**Solo,** “*My Worth Is Not in What I Own*”

### **Scripture Reading**

*Psalms 121:1–4* — Kemper Simpich

*Psalms 121:5–8* — Toby Simpich

*Psalms 84:1–7* — Gwendolyn Devine

**Message,** “*The Beauty of Heaven*”

**Hymn,** “*It Is Well With My Soul*”

### **Prayer of Commendation**

Signed and framed, Bob Simpich’s 94 years might well be expressed by his stunning five-panel oil painting hanging in a hospital waiting room. Displayed is a Colorado mountain stream—transcendent, yet so lovingly detailed you’re hearing water. It’s injured, yet refined by time; searching, deliberate, yet extravagant. Lifegiving.

This achievement, dedicated in 2008 for display at the St. Francis Medical Center in Colorado Springs, was thumbnailed by young “Phil Bob” as he delighted in the impressions of light and color, form and texture dancing across a Missouri farm near Rocheport. Born in Maryville, Missouri, the 3-year-old and his family found refuge here during the Great Depression.

A one-room schoolhouse began the sketching process, an opportunity to draw “as much as you want—hotdog!—as long as the assignment’s done.” Elementary and secondary schooling in Columbia, Missouri (where the Simpiches settled in the mid-’30s) brought encouragement and valuable exercises in spontaneity—even as parents, Phil and Susie, and sister, Tancy, stood by puzzled, yet beaming with pride at Bob’s artistry splashed across numerous mediums and styles.

The discipline, focus and concentration this mountain stream masterwork would require were certainly honed at the University of Missouri where he received his Master of Arts. But it was his 62-year marriage to an artist his equal, Janice Nickson, that stretched the canvas and steadied the easel. A job teaching art in the District 11 schools moved the newlyweds from Missouri to Colorado Springs in ’52. Here his energy and rapport with students caught the eye of district leaders. Positions as district art director and supervisor soon followed. All the while, a growing family—four beloved children: Ragan, Gretchen, David and Brenda Sue, and an endless list of hobbies (camping, fishing, miniature trains, sailboats, photography, calligraphy, pottery, archery) all laid drop cloths and adjusted the lighting; set things in place to really get going... For at the end of the day, it was all about the painting. His

efforts were prolific: oil, some acrylic, portfolios bursting with watercolors (Bob and Jan’s first dates were watercolor excursions, afternoons by a Colorado stream). Finished framed works were sold and given to his beloved family and friends.

Oh, but there was this distraction—this unstoppable little “character doll” enterprise thing—fueled by Jan and HER unquenchable artistry. It tended to take a lot of Bob’s time, and best energy, and innovation. How he loved and supported his wife. This “sideline” eventually became a business employing over 100 people, bursting the seams of three commercial properties, and carrying Bob and Jan’s artwork to homes around the world. “But Janny, there’s this mountain stream waiting! The paint’s squeezed out... The lighting’s good!”

The exquisite work of art did get painted. And it seemed the raw talent, the years of prep, the skill, opportunities, even the distractions, had gotten everything ready. But Bob, mysteriously, through decades and by design, was in truth being chiseled, smoothed, and refined by the very source of this mountain stream. The Life Giver, this relentless Hound of Heaven, was forging, demanding this artist’s very soul... and threatening to grab the brush and place His own signature on the canvas. Bob—with bowed knee, bruised pride, with an ever-growing passion for this greater Artist’s instruction manual; for this Sovereign Who commands the roar of seas, as well as the rush of mountain streams—relinquished his brush, over and over. And from this act, LIGHT was—and IS—given to Bob’s art. (It’s even in the faces and spirit of all those character dolls, go figure.)

And an example of a cherished man “in Christ” was rendered and lived out over nine decades. Thirst-quenching refreshment was and is offered to all who are anxiously alert, weary, and seeking—in the waiting room—to observe and receive Living Water. Thank you, Mr. Simpich, for displaying this work for us. And, just as you truly wanted, we can’t take our eyes off the signature.