

# A Service of Gratitude, Memory, and Hope:



**Celebrating the Life of**  
*Eugene Donaldson*



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 6, 2021

1:00 p.m.

The Coral Gables Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



### GATHERING MUSIC

Deborah Fleisher, harp

### WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner

### OPENING PRAYER

### CHORAL PRESENTATION

*He Never Failed Me Yet*  
The Virtual Church Choir

### THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Ecclesiastes 3*  
The Rev. Megan Smith

### CONTEMPORARY LESSON

*The Dash*  
Read by Deryn Cowdy

### WORDS OF MEMORY

David Donaldson  
Candice Soave  
Miguel Rodriguez

### CHORAL REFLECTION

*We Are Called*  
Allison Field, Mark Hart, Greg Jackson, Alex Woods; vocalists  
Dr. Ron Morgan, director; Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

## POETIC REFLECTION

A Poem from Steven Sharot, written by Dale Harris  
Helena Thevenot, reader

## MORE WORDS OF MEMORY

Chris Nelson  
Iris Burman

## INSTRUMENTAL REFLECTION

*Dances Sacred and Profane* Debussy  
Deborah Fleisher, harp

## CLOSING WORDS AND PRAYER

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace* arr. Appling

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Dr. Greg Taylor, piano  
Deborah Fleisher, harp



Thank you for attending this celebration of life for Eugene Donaldson.  
From wherever you are, know that Eugene cared about you and would be  
honored to know that you are remembering him today.

For those present at the church, please join us for a coffee/tea reception in the  
Church Courtyard following the service. Eugene was instrumental in developing  
the courtyard some years back.

## EUGENE DONALDSON, A LIFE WELL LIVED...

Eugene Donaldson, a modern-day renaissance man, born and raised in Washington State, the eldest of four siblings. He was an explorer from an early age, preferring to gather rocks and critters over other common pastimes. He was in awe of the natural world around him and a seeker of spiritual guidance. Brought up with his family into the Baptist church, he ventured on a life-long journey into the many ways that people walk with God and celebrate their Creator.

His interests were broad and varied including a love of music expressed for his part in playing the clarinet as a child to singing in choirs for his entire life. He enjoyed discovering cultures, fine art, folk art, opera, theater, photography, sculpting, gardening, fine food, funky food, and the company of friends to share it all with.

Eugene spent his life in service to humanity. His college interests included a degree in Urban Planning with a stint in the U.S. Vista program, volunteering in the more colorful parts of New York. This was followed by several years participating with the Peace Corps in Columbia where he expanded his love of local cultures and nurtured his passion to learn from others and help those in need. He delighted in learning languages, he studied many and mastered a few allowing him to communicate more easily across the world with those he encountered.

Returning home to Washington State, he began his lifelong study of the human body and many natural healing methods. Starting with the study of Polarity Therapy he eventually moved to Miami, Florida and dove more deeply into the exploration of the energetic, physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of the field of Massage Therapy and other complementary therapies. In a few years, he participated in creating Educating Hands School of Massage, a means to share his developing skills and support others in their journey into deeper self-awareness on their way to become healing guides themselves. (Continued...)

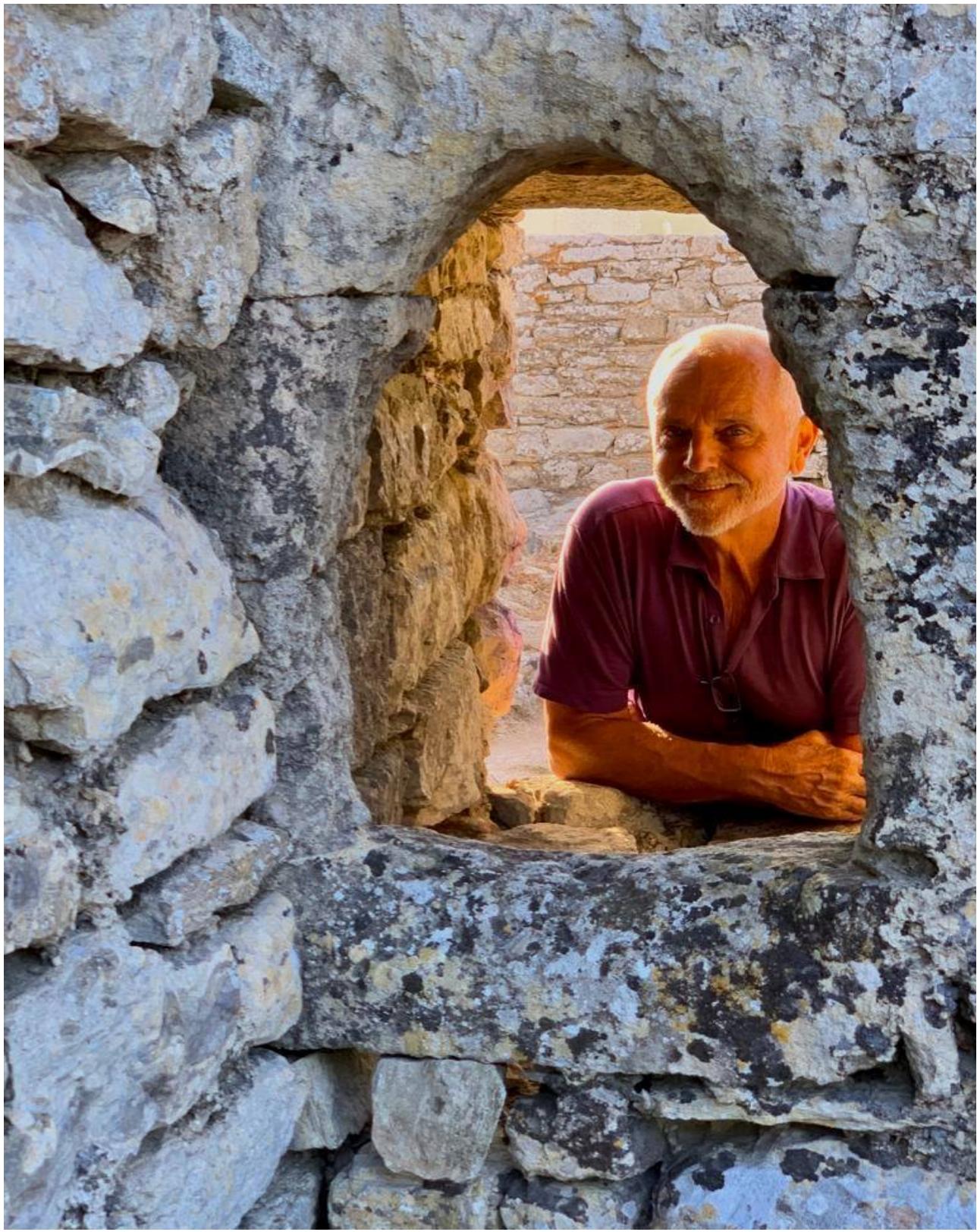
Eugene was a natural healing guide, sharing freely his wisdom and understanding of the human body and spirit. During the 80's AIDs epidemic he boldly created the Palms Foundation to give supportive touch to those suffering and dying in hospitals from this devastating disease. For over 40 years, he has provided healing touch to countless individuals, impacting their lives in more ways than just the touch.

Over the years, he also took a deep shine to the fruits of the earth, the plant world. He had a strong draw to the mighty bamboo even buying a farm in Costa Rica to grow it for sustainable housing. This did not pan out but led him to create Santuario Contemplative Gardens, a means to bring the wild world of natural landscaping to the homes of many.

Continuing his mission of service, Eugene became a certified Chaplain to minister to those in hospice care, supporting them to a peaceful passing and their families to come to terms with the process of death and dying.

He travelled the world, gathering wisdom, artifacts, and friendship. But he visioned spending his retirement in Ashville, NC where he had a house and a growing community. Sadly, this was not to be. He passed, peacefully in his sleep on the shores of the Little River surrounded by his lush gardens right here in Miami.





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