



CELEBRATION SERVICE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 2025



FAMILY PRAYER BEN JOHNSTON (SON)

CONDUCTING BISHOP DENNIS

PRELUDE/POSTLUDE JOLYNN JEX

CHORISTER BOB JEX

OPENING HYMN "HOW GREAT THOU ART", #86

INVOCATION JOE BRADY (BROTHER-IN-LAW)

OBITUARY/MEMORIES GINA KNUDSEN (DAUGHTER)

MEMORIES BEN JOHNSTON (SON)

MUSICAL NUMBER "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES"
BY CURTIS AND WENDI COOMBS
ACCOMPANIED BY MELISSA JOHNSTON

MEMORIES JULIE JOHNSTON (DAUGHTER)

MEMORIES/CLOSING REMARKS PAUL JOHNSTON (SON)

CLOSING HYMN "FAMILIES CAN BE TOGETHER FOREVER", #300

BENEDICTION KIM COVIEO (BROTHER-IN-LAW)

PALLBEARERS



PAUL JOHNSTON (SON)	JEREMY KNUDSEN (SON-IN-LAW))
BEN JOHNSTON (SON)	ETHAN KNUDSEN (GRANDSON)
NOAH JOHNSTON (GRANDSON)	CONNOR SAPP (GRANDSON)
HARRISON JOHNSTON (GRANDSON)	PARKER SAPP (GRANDSON)
COLEMAN JOHNSTON (GRANDSON)	SCOUT SAPP (GRANDSON)

HONORARY PALLBEARERS



JAMES JOHNSTON (BROTHER)	WYNN COVIEO (BROTHER-IN-LAW)
HEATH SMAELLIE (SON-IN-LAW)	KIM COVIEO (BROTHER-IN-LAW)
LUKE SMAELLIE (GRANDSON)	JOHNNY HANSEN (GRANDSON-IN-LAW)
REED POLL (BROTHER-IN-LAW)	TEANCUM PIEKARSKI (GRANDSON-IN-LAW))
JOE BRADY (BROTHER-IN-LAW)	COLTON SARKADY (GRANDSON-IN-LAW)

DON'S FAVORITE MEMORIZED POEM

THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND
BY
MYRA BROOKS WELCH

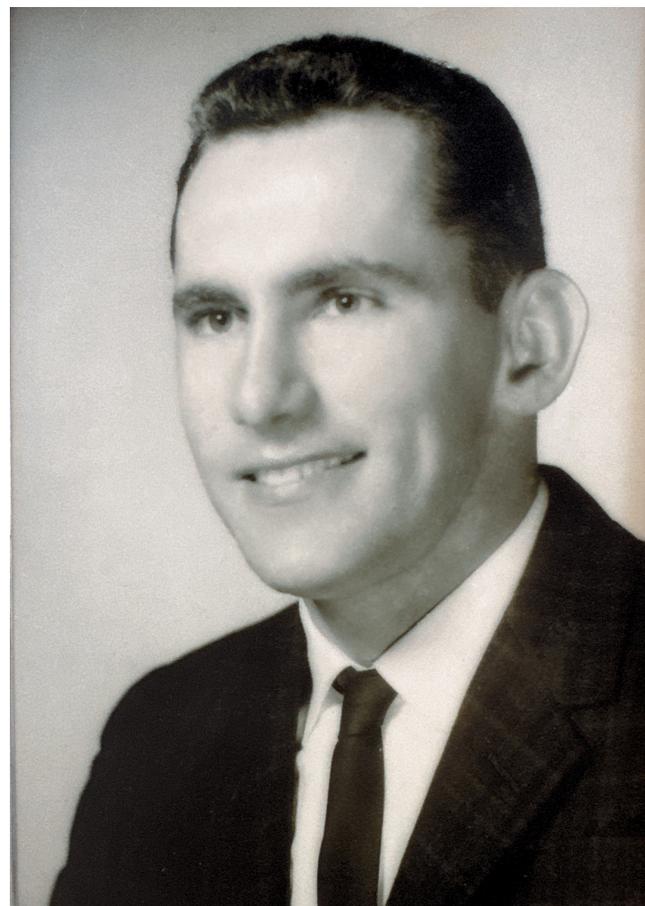
'T WAS BATTERED AND SCARRED, AND THE AUCTIONEER
THOUGHT IT SCARCELY WORTH HIS WHILE
TO WASTE MUCH TIME ON THE OLD VIOLIN,
BUT HELD IT UP WITH A SMILE.
"WHAT AM I BIDDEN, GOOD FOLKS," HE CRIED,
"WHO'LL START THE BIDDING FOR ME?"
"A DOLLAR, A DOLLAR. THEN TWO! ONLY TWO?
TWO DOLLARS, AND WHO'LL MAKE IT THREE?"

"THREE DOLLARS, ONCE; THREE DOLLARS, TWICE;
GOING FOR THREE..." BUT NO,
FROM THE ROOM, FAR BACK, A GREY-HAIRED MAN
CAME FORWARD AND PICKED UP THE BOW;
THEN WIPING THE DUST FROM THE OLD VIOLIN,
AND TIGHTENING THE LOOSENED STRINGS,
HE PLAYED A MELODY PURE AND SWEET,
AS A CAROLING ANGEL SINGS.

THE MUSIC CEASED, AND THE AUCTIONEER,
WITH A VOICE THAT WAS QUIET AND LOW,
SAID: "WHAT AM I BID FOR THE OLD VIOLIN?"
AND HE HELD IT UP WITH THE BOW.
"A THOUSAND DOLLARS, AND WHO'LL MAKE IT TWO?
TWO THOUSAND! AND WHO'LL MAKE IT THREE?
THREE THOUSAND, ONCE; THREE THOUSAND, TWICE,
AND GOING AND GONE," SAID HE.

THE PEOPLE CHEERED, BUT SOME OF THEM CRIED,
"WE DO NOT QUITE UNDERSTAND.
WHAT CHANGED ITS WORTH?" SWIFT CAME THE REPLY:
"THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND."
AND MANY A MAN WITH LIFE OUT OF TUNE,
AND BATTERED AND SCARRED WITH SIN,
IS AUCTIONED CHEAP TO THE THOUGHTLESS CROWD
MUCH LIKE THE OLD VIOLIN.

A "MESS OF POTTAGE," A GLASS OF WINE,
A GAME — AND HE TRAVELS ON.
HE IS "GOING" ONCE, AND "GOING" TWICE,
HE'S "GOING" AND ALMOST "GONE."
BUT THE MASTER COMES, AND THE FOOLISH CROWD
NEVER CAN QUITE UNDERSTAND
THE WORTH OF A SOUL AND THE CHANGE THAT IS WROUGHT
BY THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
DONALD J. JOHNSTON

JANUARY 27, 1940 - AUGUST 10, 2025