

YET EVEN AT THE GRAVE
WE MAKE OUR SONG:



ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA · ALLELUIA

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION
AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

+ TOM KELLY +

May 25, 1951 - June 24, 2024

August 24, 2024

10 a.m.

PRELUDE

Children of the Heavenly Father (arr. Robert Lau)
Now Thank We All Our God (J.S. Bach)
Te Exaltare, Mi Dios, Mi Rey (Casiodoro Cárdenas)
El Señor Es Mi Fuerza (Juan Espinosa)
Puedo Confiar En El Señor (Traditional)
Alzare Mis Ojos a Los Montes (Traditional)
Te Vengo a Decir (Juan Isais)
Lift High the Cross (Sydney H. Nicholson)
Brian Ward, Organ/Piano

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jeff Hunter

INVOCATION

Rev. Libby Piotrowski

* HYMN 35

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

You are invited to sing the hymn in English or Spanish.

*Canta, canta, alma mía,
a tu Rey y tu Señor;
Reconoce sus bondades;
te bendice con favor.
Canta, canta, alma mía,
canta de su gran amor.*

*Canta su misericordia,
que a tus padres protegió;
en su amor te dio la vida
te cuidó y perdonó.
Canta, canta, alma mía,
canta al Dios que te salvó.*

*Como padre te conoce,
sabe tu debilidad,
con su brazo te conduce,
te protege de maldad.
Canta, canta, alma mía,
canta su fidelidad.*

*Ángeles y querubines,
que su majestad cantáis,
Oh, estrellas, sol y luna,
que los cielos domináis;
Todos juntos, alabemos,
adorando a nuestro Dios.*

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Psalm 46

Keith Doudt, friend

* Matthew 4:23 - 5:10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TRIBUTES

Letter from Serve Globally
Pastor Tomás Sanabria
Letter from the Covenant Church of Mexico

Eugenio Restrepo
Pastor, Albany Park Covenant Church
Marisol Martínez, President of the
Covenant Church of Mexico, 2014-2018

SPECIAL MUSIC

Tú Has Venido a la Orilla (You Have Come) (333)
Dale and Desirée Reed, Kathy Matson

REMEMBRANCES

Miguel Ortega, Colleague and Friend
(letter read by Javier Martínez)
Karen Feijóo, Sister
Karen Kelly, Daughter

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Jeff Hunter

* HYMN 78

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

You are invited to sing the hymn in English or Spanish.

*Oh, Dios Eterno, tu misericordia
ni una sombra de duda tendrá;
Tu compasión y bondad nunca fallan
y por los siglos el mismo serás.*

*La noche oscura, el sol y la luna,
las estaciones del año también,
unen su canto cual fieles criaturas,
porque eres bueno, por siempre eres fiel. Coro*

*Coro: ¡Oh, tu fidelidad! ¡Oh, tu fidelidad!
cada momento la veo en mí.
Nada me falta, pues todo provees,
¡Grande, Señor, es tu fidelidad!*

*Tú me perdonas, me impartes el gozo,
tierno me guías por sendas de paz;
Eres mi fuerza, mi fe, mi reposo,
y por los siglos mi Padre serás. Coro*

HOMILY

An Unfailing Promise
2 Corinthians 1:15-23
Rev. Douglas Johnson

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Romans 8

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God!

You are invited to sing the hymn in English or Spanish.

*Cual la mar hermosa, es la paz de Dios,
fuerte y gloriosa, es eterna paz;
grande y perfecta, premio de la cruz;
fruto del Calvario, obra de Jesús.*

*Coro: Descansando en Cristo siempre paz tendré;
en Jehová confiando, nada temeré.*

*En el gran refugio de la paz de Dios,
nunca hay molestias, es perfecta paz:
nunca negra duda, pena ni pesar,
vejaciones crueles pueden acosar. Coro*

*Toda nuestra vida cuidará Jesús,
Cristo nunca cambia, Él es nuestra paz;
fuertes y seguros, en el Salvador,
Siempre moraremos en Su grande amor. Coro*

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Libby Piotrowski
Nils Clauson, Serve Globally Colleague

POSTLUDE

Thine Is the Glory
arr. Mark Hayes

** Please rise, in body or in spirit.*



*All are invited to the parlors on our lower level for a reception and
time to greet the family following the service.*

35 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple
 3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, you be - hold him

trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; praise him, still the same as ev - er,
 frame he knows; in his hands he gen - tly bears us,
 face to face; sun and moon, bow down be - fore him,

ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!
 res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace. A - men.

WORDS: Based on Psalm 103, Henry Francis Lyte, 1793-1847, alt.
 MUSIC: John Goss, 1800-1880

8.7.8.7.8.7.
 PRAISE MY SOUL

An alternate harmonization follows on the next page.

TRIBUTE FROM PASTOR TOMÁS SANABRIA, M.Div.

This morning, the Albany Park Evangelical Covenant Church says “present” to Janice “Juanita,” the wife of Thomas Kelly, to his children, family, friends, and to the members of North Park Church.

We thank you for this privilege of celebrating together this memorial for Tomás Kelly, who was raised in South America speaking Spanish. For our church, he has been a great man of faith, founder, and the first pastor who, for nine years, coming and going, shepherded us until he went to Mexico as a missionary in 1982.

Personally, when the church elected me as its 21st pastor in 2012, the denomination challenged me that, if I wanted to be ordained in my new pastoral role, I had to select a mentor. When I asked the women who had been in the church many years who they considered “the angel” of the church, and they said Pastor Tomás Kelly, I declared, “Well, I want that angel to be my advisor.” And so it has been for 12 years.

I learned that his history with the church went beyond our founding on the 7th day of Sunday in November 1971. It began in 1969 with the efforts of his father, Ted Kelly (who was a missionary in Ecuador), and those of Ralph Varde and Rev. James A. Anderson, who reached out to the new Latino immigrant community already growing around North Park Church. When conducting a survey with this population, they offered an English-as-a-Second Language class with Sherrom Hughes-Tremper as their first teacher. Months later, Tomás Kelly took charge and then was able to turn it into a Bible study.

With many sacrifices, brother Tomás and the new congregation raised funds and gave their offerings and tithes to rent their first storefront church. Under the ministry of Pastor Lawrence G. Johnson, from 1972 to 1975, this urban mission established itself as the first Latino congregation of the Covenant in Chicago that did not come from an established church nor inherited a church building. In 1977, with the help of the Central Conference, they bought a funeral home (and later the building next door). They also became an official church of the denomination.

Thus, the Albany Park Evangelical Covenant Church recognizes that, if it were not for all these collaborators who have already passed into eternity, if it were not for their physical, mental, and spiritual efforts, we could not be ministering in Spanish to 14 Hispanic nationalities every Sunday, nor serving the more than 700 immigrants who have come to our church in the first six months of this year. Ultimately, by the mercy of God, the legacy of Tomás Kelly allows us to celebrate 53 years this November 10, 2024.

Thank you, Pastor Tomás Kelly, Janice, and family.

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.

If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

A LETTER FROM THE COVENANT CHURCH OF MEXICO

State of Mexico, July 8, 2024

As the Covenant Church of Mexico, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Kelly family—Juanita, Mateo, Carlos, and Karen—on the profound loss of our dear brother Tom. For over 35 years, he dedicated himself to our country, significantly contributing to the development and strengthening of the church he loved so deeply.

In this message, I include the sentiments shared by each District, as Tom had a very close relationship with the members of each one:

South District

Your departure has left a void in our hearts, but we find solace knowing that you are now in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you faithfully served throughout your earthly life. As a missionary, you brought the gospel to remote places, serving as a beacon of hope to a world in darkness and despair.

Your teachings inspired us to delve deeper into the Word of God, to grow in our faith, and to remain humble, always depending on Him.

Now, you rest from your labors, but your work lives on through those you reached with the message of salvation. Until we meet again in the presence of the Lord, you will be deeply missed.

With love and hope in Christ.

Central South East District

Tomás Kelly was my brother on the journey, my friend in joys and sorrows, and my teacher in learning. We shared a long journey together. He accompanied us on both beautiful paths and muddy potholes, sometimes with his laughter echoing in my ears and vibrating in my heart, and other times hugging us and comforting us when we were in tears. I remember climbing several steps to be at his height and see him eye-to-eye, and his laughter would fill all space and time.

What can I say about Tomás Kelly and Juanita? Together with David Mark, they were in Cuautla when the church was first born and accompanied us for our first services. Together we cried, laughed, shared trips, meals, and many events. I clearly remember the immense support Tom provided me the first time I led an Easter Sunday service. He stayed overnight at our house, always smiling and finding the right words to share. He was a solemn person who loved hymns and choruses, encouraging us to use the church hymnal. He was an exemplary Christian and person: always well-prepared, possessing great wisdom, and someone who loved our Lord Jesus in a way that was inspiring. I always said that Tom and Janice were angels sent by God. Tom was an example to others in his marriage, as a husband, and as a father. He made a lasting impact, and his legacy will remain an important part of our lives. We love you, Tomás Kelly; you will always be in our hearts. Thank you, thank you very much.

Central District

We had the chance to get to know Tomás Kelly. At first, his height and serious demeanor might have seemed imposing, but once you got to know him, he was incredibly pleasant, always smiling, joyful, and full of enthusiasm.

We view him as a cornerstone in the development of the church in Mexico. He visited each local church, ensuring that everyone understood and lived out “The Covenant Affirmations,” which are central to our church. He was a friend to many of us in this district, often engaging in long conversations over coffee and a piece of cake. During these moments, we found him genuinely interested in our spiritual growth and in helping us fulfill our calling and responsibilities.

He was a teacher who was always punctual, responsible, and challenging. Consistently well-prepared, he included a special hymn related to each lesson, and his slides and materials brought vitality and engagement to every class. Oh, how demanding you were! You made us tremble when you handed out grades, but through that, we learned so much about God. Thank you for all the time you invested in each person in this district, thank you for teaching us the importance of the gospel, and thank you for being our friend.

Dear Kelly family,

As the Covenant Church of Mexico, we want you to know that we love you and are with you in spirit. We grieve the loss of your husband and father, but we take comfort in knowing he is now with Jesus, his teacher, and has entered into the home that was prepared for him.

We thank you for dedicating 35 years of your life to Mexico, which greatly contributed to building the church. We are proud to have shared a friendship with your family that has been both exemplary and deeply caring.

These few pages express our gratitude—words from hearts that have shared part of their lives with you. Though we are saddened by your loss, we find joy in knowing that it is only a matter of time before we are reunited with him and with Jesus.

I would like to close this letter with a verse from a hymn we sang together at the national assembly:

Soon Jesus will come and take us to the beautiful celestial mansion.

Soon Jesus will come for his Church; we will go to live with him.

Sincerely,

National Executive Committee 2022-2026

Gerardo Sánchez Guerrero, President, 2022-2026

Mario Bravo, Vice President

Jaime Coronel, Secretary

Sadot Cecilio, Treasurer

Israel Medina, Member

Julio César Santiago, Member

Fernando Ramírez, Member

A REMEMBRANCE FROM MIGUEL ORTEGA, COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND

Dear Tom and Juanita Kelly,

Together you came to Mexico and left us with a profound sense of commitment to God and dedication to an eternal mission. Our gratitude to the Lord and to you is immense, because you also opened your hearts to a deep sense of fellowship. As a couple, you were four open arms that embraced many with your advice, your attentive listening, and your sincere friendship. Thank you, beautiful *compadres*. Yes, *compadres*, because when Karen Amada was born, you invited Sarita, my wife, and me to be witnesses before the authorities, which made us godparents, co-parents, and family.

I am recalling the interests and tastes that united Tom and me. The first thing that comes to mind is coffee. Many events were woven around this shared enjoyment, because we couldn't review any of the many books to print and distribute among the Covenant churches without one or several cups of coffee.

Tom and I took several trips to churches, holding conferences and workshops to strengthen our identity as "Covenanters." Once, when returning from a meeting in the state of Morelos, he said with a slight smile, "I don't know what's wrong with this van; the steering wheel isn't responding." A few minutes later, the van was parked in front of our favorite café, Gabi's. Tom ordered a "double espresso" and truly savored it. The next day he told me, "That espresso from yesterday kept me awake until 3 in the morning praying for you."

I fondly remember that Tom, Dulce Flores, and I used to meet at our house to translate and edit books, and with the question, "Which page were we on?" we would resume the book review amid comments, some jokes, and more coffee. Once, Tom told me that Karen had asked him, "Dad, how many pages did you review today?" because she thought we were spending a lot of time on a particular book, even though she knew why it was taking us so long.

Classical music was another of our passions, especially when it included Christian themes: Bach, Mendelssohn, Handel, and others. From Tom, I learned to appreciate and love the hymns that churches sang centuries ago. He would tell us about the author and the history. Those were very pleasant moments. On Easter Sundays, when he greeted me, he would always say: "The Lord has risen, Hallelujah!"

Tom and I established a very close friendship in our work for Covenant Communications, particularly for the devotional book *Hoy con Dios*. It is only fair to acknowledge that Tom did not work alone in this. Juanita, a remarkable wife and dedicated missionary, prepared the scripture texts for each issue of *Hoy con Dios*, and I received them in advance to find writers. This is a task that she has continued despite the illness that my friend, Tom, suffered. Covenant Communications Mexico—in which many church leaders have participated, too many to list—was promoted by this wonderful couple.

Today, the entire team mourns Tom's departure but also rejoices because he invited us to work in this ministry for the Lord our God.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther! There is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not: as thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row—bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness, great is thy faith-ful-ness, morn-ing by

GOD THE NURTURER

morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed— great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

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Like a River Glorious

1 Like a riv - er glo - rious is God's per - fect peace, o - ver all vic -
 2 Hid - den in the hol - low of his bless - ed hand, nev - er foe can
 3 Ev - 'ry joy or tri - al fall - eth from a - bove, traced up - on our

to - rious in its bright in - crease; per - fect, yet it flow - eth full - er
 fol - low, nev - er trai - tor stand; not a surge of wor - ry, not a
 di - al by the sun of love; we may trust him ful - ly all for

ev - 'ry day, per - fect, yet it grow - eth deep - er all the way.
 shade of care, not a blast of hur - ry touch the spir - it there.
 us to do— they who trust him whol - ly find him whol - ly true.

Stayed up - on Je - ho - vah, hearts are ful - ly blest—

find - ing, as he prom - ised, per - fect peace and rest.

+ THOMAS KELLY +
May 25, 1951 - June 24, 2024

Retired Covenant global personnel Thomas Kelly passed away in Northbrook, Illinois, on June 24, 2024. He was 73.

Thomas Eric Kelly was born May 25, 1951, to parents J. Theodore and Carolyn (Erickson) Kelly in Chicago, Illinois. At three months of age, Tom traveled to Ecuador, South America, with his parents, who were newly commissioned to serve with the Ecuadorian Covenant Church. Tom first learned to believe in Jesus and to follow him as he heard the Good News from his parents, and saw them live out their faith.

Growing up in Ecuador, Tom learned to speak and love the Spanish language and continued to study it for the rest of his life. He knew that his cross-cultural background was a gift, and was committed to making it count for something useful within the kingdom of God.

Tom earned a bachelor's degree in history from North Park College in 1968, a master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas in Austin in 1974, and a Master of Divinity from North Park Theological Seminary in 1978. He was ordained to Word and Sacrament by the Evangelical Covenant Church in 1979.

Throughout his years as a student, Tom was involved in a variety of outreach activities. He helped North Park Covenant Church launch a teaching English as a Second Language program in the nearby Albany Park neighborhood of Chicago and later started a Bible study for the Spanish-speaking students. From that small group, and with the strong support of Associate Pastor Rev. James Anderson and a host of hard-working, generous church members, in November 1971 a new church was born: Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico de Albany Park. Tom pastored the church until 1982. In 2021, Tom joyfully collaborated with current pastor, Rev. Tomás Sanabria, in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico de Albany Park.

At North Park College, Tom met fellow student Janice Grimwood. Their relationship grew across the years, and they married on August 15, 1981. In 1982, Tom and Janice embarked on what was meant to be a two-year stay working with the Covenant Church of Mexico. Those two years turned into 35 years of life and work in Mexico, where it was their joy to welcome and raise three children, Matthew, Carl, and Karen. As a family they enjoyed opening their home to guests.

Tom treasured many life-giving friendships that developed across Mexico and Latin America as he lived out his call to serve through preaching, teaching, discipling, giving pastoral care, and training leaders. He considered it an honor to work with Covenant Communications of Mexico in translating books, creating educational materials and developing the daily devotional guide *Hoy Con Dios*, publications that continue to be used across Latin America and the U.S.

Throughout the years, including during retirement in Chicago, Tom also participated in a variety of Covenant roles, including on the General Centennial Committee, the Board of the Ordered Ministry, and the Commission on Covenant History.



In Tom's work in diverse capacities, he was known for advocating for women in ministry, encouraging young people to prepare for and take positions of leadership, and planning and leading worship gatherings characterized by order, beauty and dignity. He is also remembered for his exuberant laugh, his love of coffee and conversation, and his appreciation of a wide variety of music.

Reflecting on his life and legacy, Tom frequently acknowledged the important role that many people played in his formation. His faith was nurtured throughout his life by Christian high school teachers, his parents' ministry colleagues, North Park College and Seminary professors, people he met and got to know during years of living in Latin America, and faithful men and women of earlier centuries.

Tom is survived by his wife, Janice; children, Matthew (Henry Peterson), Carl (Mayra Andrade), and Karen (Enrique Regalado); grandson, Daniel Kelly Andrade; brothers, Mark (Kathleen) and David (RoxAnn), and sister, Karen Feijoo (Carlos); beloved nieces and nephews; and many family and friends.

Peace be to his memory.



Service Participants

Ministers	Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter Co-pastors, North Park Covenant Church
	Douglas Johnson, Family Friend
Organist	Brian Ward, Music Ministry Coordinator/ Chancel Choir Director, North Park Covenant Church
Musicians	Dale and Desirée Reed, Family Friends Kathy Matson, Family Friend
Interpreter	Pia Restrepo



Memorials

Gifts in memory of Tom can be given to
your favorite charity or organization.



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