

Amy and I arrived at Park Road Baptist Church on a July afternoon in 2000. We were greeted by a member of the Pastor Search Committee, and after some initial conversation were given a tour of the church and the surrounding community. We returned to the church, and as we got out of the car we were introduced to Ken Kinnaird and George McDonald. They weren't members of the search committee, they just happened to be at the church, we were told, because, well, just because they were always at the church! If there was something to do... you could always... always count on George McDonald to be here to do it.

With a smile on his face and a song on his lips, he greeted everyone: Hallelujah! If I've heard it once, I've heard it a thousand times. And though there is great sadness on this day - Park Road Baptist Church has never lost a harder worker, a bigger voice, a more noble heart - we come with that word on our lips and in our hearts. Thanks be to God for George Terry McDonald. We come to celebrate his life even as we worship God together. Hallelujah.

Prayer

The prophet Isaiah declared, *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The people who walked in darkness, on them the light has shined.*

God of Grace, we gather in this season which is a reminder that you have shone your light on us. We celebrate Jesus Christ, the light of the world, and

today we gather as friends and family to celebrate another light among us. For George Terry McDonald, who loved light, and whose voice and powerful presence was a light to so many, we give you thanks. And we worship this day because we trust that his light was a ray from a more powerful source. For divine light which sustains us in the most difficult of times, make us grateful, and for George's light, which brought a smile to so many faces, inspire us, also, to *let our light shine before one another, that we might glorify God.*

When Jesus came to be among us it was said of him: *He was the light of all people... The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it... As we worship this day shine your light in us, even as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray, saying...*

