

Rev. T. Kerr Spiers • 1931-2011

Kerr Spiers was born in Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland, on September 9 1931. His father, George Spiers, was a Baptist minister in Shotts, Glasgow and Hawick among other places, and in these towns Kerr spent his childhood and teenage years. At the age of 19 he became convinced that he, too, wanted to be a Baptist minister like his father, and studied for a degree in divinity at Rawdon Theological College in Yorkshire.

Kerr's ministry took him first to Morningside Baptist Church in Edinburgh, then to Anstruther in Fife, and then, in 1969, to Hillhead Baptist Church in Glasgow, by which point he had also become a distinguished broadcaster in Scotland. He also served as minister of Coats Memorial Baptist Church in Paisley, Scotland before coming to Yorkminster Park in 1991 to be the Minister of the Congregation.

Kerr's ministry at Yorkminster Park was marked by initiatives such as the Vision 2000 Capital Campaign as a result of which the Yorkminster Park Centre was renovated and updated. He also played a key role in the initial stages and support of The Out of the Cold ministry, the Alpha Program and our alternative hymn book. Kerr is remembered fondly for the love and kindness of his pastoral ministry and the strength of his prayers and sermons.

Kerr and Betty returned home to Glasgow in 1999 following his retirement. He continued preaching, at Glasgow Cathedral among other places, until well into his mid-70s.

Kerr died on September 28, 2011, three weeks after his 80th birthday, from the effects of a stroke suffered six months earlier. One cannot say enough about the wisdom and warmth Betty offered to Kerr in his years of ministry and the strength of her loving devotion in the months following his stroke. Kerr died peacefully, with Betty and their two children, Fiona and Graham, at his bedside.

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A Service in Celebration

of the Life of

The Rev. Kerr Spiers

1931 – 2011



**Sunday, January 15, 2012
4:30 p.m.**

*Officiants: The Reverend Dr. J. Peter Holmes
The Reverend Dr. William Sturgess
The Reverend John R. Torrance
The Reverend Cheryle Hanna*

Organist: William Maddox B.Mus, FTCL

Order of Service

A single bell will toll for fifteen minutes

Preludes

O welt, ich muss dich lassen *Johannes Brahms*
Prelude on a 2nd mode melody by Tallis *Florence Durrell Clark*

Processional Hymn 37 – Ye servants of God (Laudate Dominum)

Opening Sentences *The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes*
Call to Worship #794 (Psalm 23 in unison)

Gloria Patri - Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Introit – Sanctus *Franz Schubert*
Holy, holy, holy, God Almighty Lord, Holy, holy, holy, ev'rywhere adored.

He without beginning, He th'eternal One, Reigns and rules forever, all things 'neath the sun. Power and love and wonder, circling round His throne, Praise Him, holy, holy, Lord of life alone.

Invocation and the Lord's Prayer *The Rev. Cheryle Hanna*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. (*sung Amen*)

Tribute *Graham Spiers*

Poem – I Thank Thee God *Elizabeth Craven*

Read by The Rev. Canon Dr. Timothy Elliott

Hymn *SHB 119 – Will you come and follow me (Kelvingrove)

Holy Scripture –

Psalm 139:1-18 *Diane Letsche, Chair of Deacons*
Luke 10:25-37 *Robert Peck, Chair of Trustees*
Romans 8 (*selected verses*) *The Rev. John R. Torrance*

Anthem – Give us the wings of faith *Ernest Bullock*

Give us the wings of faith to rise within the veil, and see the saints above, how great their joys, how bright their glories be. We ask them whence their victory came: they, with united breath, ascribe the conquest to the Lamb, their triumph to his death. They marked the footsteps that he trod, his zeal inspired their breast, and, following their incarnate God, they reached the promised rest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *The Rev. Dr. William Sturgess*

Choral Response *George Thalben Ball*

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee. Amen.

Hymn 550 – O God of Bethel (Salzburg)

Homily *The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes*

Hymn *SHB 3 – All my hope on God is founded (Michael)

Benediction *The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes*

Choral Amen (Maddox in G)

Choir Recessional – Nunc Dimittis with Antiphon

(mode III.4, chant C.M. Palmer)

Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping; that awake we may watch with Thee, and asleep we may rest in peace. Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Gloria.

*The Memorial Bells shall peal for five minutes
following the Recessional.*

We are honoured today by the presence of Kerr's widow, Betty, who served this church faithfully with her beloved Kerr. We are also grateful for the presence of Graham Spiers.

Betty and Graham look forward to receiving your greetings at a reception to follow in the Friendship Room. All are welcome.

*SHB – Supplementary Hymn Book, "Sing to God's Glory"