

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

Michael Robert Colin Angel

March 15, 1940 – September 24, 2023



MEMORIAL SERVICE

November 17, 2023 – 1:00pm

All Saints by-the-Sea, Salt Spring Island

Michael Robert Colin Angel

Michael Robert Colin Angel, age 83, died September 24, 2023 on Salt Spring Island. Loving husband to Barbara, brother to Jeanette, and father to Eric, Jeannette and Colin, Michael was born in Edmonton, Alberta on March 15, 1940. Michael's father, Colin Victor Angel, an Anglo-German immigrant to Canada, served overseas with the Royal Canadian Artillery until 1946. Almina Jeannotte, Michael's French-Canadian mother, raised her son on her own for the first six years of his life, on the Jeannotte family farm in the Big Hay Lakes region of Central Alberta, where Grandmère Eugenie and Oncle Léo also resided.

When Colin returned from the war in early 1946, the family moved to Lacombe, Alberta, where Michael's sister Jeanette was born. Growing up in a small rural community, Michael developed a passion for the outdoors that would stay with him for the rest of his life. The local Boy Scout troop became his main extra-curricular activity during his teenaged years, culminating in a trip to the World Scout Jamboree in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, a formative experience that sparked a curiosity about people and cultures around the world that never left him.

After graduating from high school, Michael joined the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) University Naval Training Division (the "Untidys") and enrolled at the University of Alberta. There, he met the love of his life, Barbara Ann Jackson, a precocious young student in the Department of History, classical pianist, and fellow lover of the outdoors. Married on August 24, 1963, in Edmonton, their first son, Eric David, was born in November of the following year. These were the Sixties, and Michael and Barbara were keen to explore the world and make their mark. Their first stop was Iowa City, where daughter Jeannette Cybèle was born, followed by Guyana, where Michael and Barbara taught while serving with the Canadian University Service Overseas, better known as CUSO.

When their CUSO stint drew to a close in 1969, Michael and Barbara relocated to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where Michael took a job with Red River Community College, instructing in their Library Sciences program. Colin Victor, their second son, was born a few months after the family's return to Canada. Winnipeg would be home to Michael, Barbara and family for the next thirty years. A family cabin on the Winnipeg River near Myrtle Rapids, the regular summer pilgrimage to Birds Hill Park for the Winnipeg Folk Festival, canoe trips with friends and family in the trusty Brigden fibreglass canoe from the Happy Outdoorsman, cross-country skiing trips all over southern Manitoba and northwestern Ontario in the winter, a wide circle of friends from around the world, including innumerable house guests who became part of the extended family – it was a rich and fulfilling life with many joys and satisfactions.

Michael retired from the University of Manitoba in 1999 as the Associate Head of the university library system. His career as a librarian had begun at the Edmonton Public Library in the early 1960s. After obtaining a Master's in Library Sciences from the University of British Columbia, Michael worked as a librarian for the University of Iowa, the Manitoba Department of Education, and the University of Manitoba. For many years he held executive positions with the Manitoba Library Association and the Canadian Library Association. In his 50s, a longstanding interest in the history and culture of First Nations led Michael to pursue an interdisciplinary PhD at the University of Manitoba, where he combined history, anthropology and religious studies to produce a well-regarded study of the Midewiwin, eventually published as *Preserving the Sacred*.

With Michael retired and Barbara having the opportunity to teach history at Okanagan University College in Vernon, the two of them followed in the footsteps of countless Albertans and made the move to British Columbia. They soon bought a house in Coldstream, where they cultivated a fine garden, continued their love of the outdoors, especially in the company of RJ, the family dog, indulged in gourmet cooking with their many friends, and entertained their grandchildren, including Kyden, Lydia Jane, Eva Rae and Etta Marguerite.

After 16 years in the BC interior, still curious and eager for new beginnings, Michael and Barbara joined a co-housing community in Vancouver alongside Colin, his wife Tracy, and their son Miles. The dense urban experience proved a bit much for Michael, and he was relieved when a final move to a small acreage on Salt Spring Island with Barbara, Colin and family brought him back to the rural setting he had been born into, where he continued to garden and ply his skills as a pruner. One of Michael's great joys in those last few years was his dog Corey, a Great Pyrenees, and successor to his first dog Wolf from that long ago family farm in rural Alberta.

Michael leaves behind Barbara, sister Jeanette and her partner Marlene, son Eric and his partner Erin and grandson Kyden, daughter Jeannette and her husband Randi and their daughters Lydia Jane, Eva Rae and Etta Marguerite, son Colin and his wife Tracy and their son Miles. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Salt Spring Hospice Society will be gratefully accepted. The family extends its sincerest thanks to Dr. Verheul and to the staff at the Lady Minto Hospital and Greenwoods Long Term Care Residence on Salt Spring Island and the Health Care Centre in Chemainus for their unstinting care for Michael during the final months of his life. Michael was laid to rest in the Salt Spring Island Natural Cemetery on Tuesday October 3, 2023. While he sleeps among the trees, he would still welcome visitors.

Music Fauré: Requiem, Op. 48 VII. In Paradisum
Choir of King's College, Cambridge

The gathered community is invited to stand as they are able as the sentences from Scripture are read.

Presider I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8:38-39*

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he dies. And everyone who has life, and is committed to me in faith, shall not die for ever. *John 11:25-26*

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

The Priest will welcome the community.

Hymn Be Thou my Vision *Common Praise 505*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that Thou art thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, thine own. may I be,; Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee..

Riches I heed not, nor the word's empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always: thou and thou only, first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, when victory is won, may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's sun! heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Collect
All Let us pray, God our Creator,
we thank you that you have made each of us in your own image, and given us gifts and talents with which to serve you. We thank you for Mike, the years we shared with him, the good we saw in him, the love we received from him. Now give us strength and courage to leave him in your care, confident in your promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remembrance *Written by Don Aronovitch shared by Jeannette Angel*

First Reading 1st Corinthians 13 *read by Barbara Baer Pillay*
Reader Here what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 *Read by Noreen Davies*

Reading Embers– One Ojibway's Meditations by Richard Wagamese *read by Eric Angel*

Music Going Home *sung by Walter Stewart*

Reader God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Reader A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Gospel Matthew 11 *read by Mary Hagan-Ross*

Reader The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily


Prayers of the People

The Peace
Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

Please offer the 'peace' to one another by saying, "Peace be with you" or "The Peace of Christ be with you"

Hymn

I Feel the Winds of God Today



1 I feel the winds of God to-day, to-
2 It is the wind of God that dries my
3 If ev-er I for-get your love and
day my sail I lift, though heav-y oft with
vain re-gret-ful tears, un-til with brav-er
how that love was shown, lift high the blood-red
drench-ing spray and torn with man-y a rift,
thoughts shall rise the pur-er, bright-er years,
flag a-bove, it bears your name a-lone.
if hope but light the wa-ter's crest, and
if cast on shores of self-ish ease or
Great pi-lot of my on-ward way, you
Christ my bark will use, I'll seek the seas at
plea-sure I should be, O let me feel your
will not let me drift. I feel the winds of
his be-hest, and brave an-oth-er cruise.
fresh-ening breeze, and I'll put back to sea.
God to-day, to-day my sail I lift.

Presider God of mercy,
All **accept the worship we offer you this day. Increase, we pray, our faith, deepen our hope, and confirm us in your eternal love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving *Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer #2*

Presider May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to God.**

Presider Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider ...Joining in the song of the universe we proclaim your glory saying.

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider ...and to proclaim our faith.

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Lord's Prayer

Presider And now as our Saviour taught us let us pray,

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Receiving Communion: *At this time we welcome everyone to come forward to receive either bread and wine, just bread or a blessing. Anyone who would prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion may come forward and put their hands at their sides.*

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray, God of love,

All **you have fed us at the table of your kingdom. Teach us to trust, without fear, in your eternal goodness and mercy. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Priest Go on your journey from this world, dear child of God, into the hands of the Creator who made you, to find life in Christ who redeems you, to rejoice in the Spirit who renews you. May the heavenly host sustain you and the company of the redeemed enfold you. May peace be yours this day and the heavenly city your home.

All **Amen.**

Presider Rest eternal grant unto him, O God.

All **and let light perpetual shine upon him.**

Presider May his soul and the souls of all the faithful through the mercy of God rest in peace and with Christ rise in glory.

All **Amen.**

Hymn Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Common Praise 425

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Blessing

Presider May Christ who lived, died and lived again enfold you in love and the blessing of God all loving, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you now and always.

All **Amen.**

Presider Go forth in the name of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Music Bach: Mass in B Minor, Gloria in Excelsis Deo Monteverdi Choir with Nancy Argenta,
John Eliot Gardiner - Archiv

The family invites you to a reception in the hall following the service.

Organist David Storm

Chalice Bearer Walter Stewart

Priest The Rev. Heidi Brear