

**A Celebration of the Life
of
Hung-Wen (Luke) Tsao
January 5, 1933 - April 13, 2022**



**Princeton University Chapel
Friday, June 20, 2025
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm**

Organ Prelude

Kerry Heimann

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - JS Bach
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing - Robert Robinson
Be Thou My Vision - Mary E. Byrne/Eleanor H. Hull

All stand as able.

Opening Sentences:

Rev. Allen Wakabayashi

Officiant says:

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
 even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
 and has committed himself to me in faith,
 shall not die for ever.
As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
 and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up;
 and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
 who is my friend and not a stranger.
For none of us has life in himself,
 and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
 and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's possession.
Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit,
 for they rest from their labors.

The People sit.

Welcome

Welcome, beloved. We are gathered to remember before God our brother, Hung-Wen/Luke, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to God's unfailing mercy, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Hung-Wen/Luke, whom you have now received into your presence. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Help us to believe where we have not seen, trusting you to lead us through our years. Bring us at last with all your saints into the joy of your presence. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Soloist

Franklin Phillips, baritone
Kerry Heimann, piano

Simple Gifts
- Elder Joseph Brackett, Jr.

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed
To turn, turn will be our delight
Till by turning, turning, we come round right.*

The Lessons

Old Testament Reading
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 (NIV)

Christopher Wang, grandson

- 1 There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- 6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,

7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,

8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

9 What do workers gain from their toil? 10 I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand, as able, for the Psalm read in unison.

A Reading from the Psalms

Psalms 46 (NIV)

Rev. Allen Wakabayashi

**1 God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.**

**2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,**

**3 though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.**

**4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.**

**5 God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.**

**6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.**

**7 The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

**8 Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.**

**9 He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.**

**10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."**

**11 The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

The People sit.

New Testament Reading

Emily Wang, granddaughter

Revelation 21:2-7 (NIV)

2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand, as able, for the reading of the Gospel.

The Gospel Reading

Rev. Allen Wakabayashi

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

John 11:21-27 (NIV)

21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

At the end of the Gospel reading:

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The People sit.

Video Presentation of the Life and Times of Hung-Wen (Luke) Tsao

Soundtrack: *Some Enchanted Evening* from the Broadway musical *South Pacific* and *In Dreams* by Roy Orbison, some of Hung-Wen's favorite songs (7 mins. 31 secs.)

Remembering Hung-Wen (Luke) Tsao

Hung-Wen's brother: Joseph Tsao

Hung-Wen's four grandchildren: Christopher Wang, Emily Wang, Waverly Wang, Olivia Wang

Hung-Wen's daughter and son-in-law: Judy and Frank Wang

Soloist

Nicole Aldrich, soprano

Kerry Heimann, piano

Pie Jesu

- Andrew Lloyd Webber

Pie Jesu qui tollis peccata mundi

(Merciful Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world,)

Dona eis requiem.

(Grant them rest.)

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi

(Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,)

Dona eis requiem sempiternam.

(Grant them eternal rest.)

All stand as able.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant: In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

All:

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Remain standing.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

All:

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.
Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

All remain standing
and all sing the hymn.

Hymn

Kerry Heimann, organ

How Great Thou Art

Stuart Wesley Keene Hine, 1953

Swedish Folk Melody

♩ = 80



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er
2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, When I look down from loft - y mount - ain
die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble a - dor -



thun - der, Thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis - played:
grand - eur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my
bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin:
- a - tion, And there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my



soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!



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Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

The People sit.

The Commendation

Officiant:

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying,

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Hung-Wen (Luke) Tsao. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

People: **Amen.**

Soloist

Franklin Phillips, baritone
Kerry Heimann, piano

Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me
- Michael Farren/Jonny Robinson/Rich Thompson

*What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer.
There is no more for Heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine!"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me*

*The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Savior, He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley, He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me*

*No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.
The future's sure, the price, it has been paid,
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.*

*To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.
Jesus, now and ever is my plea
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free!"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

*With every breath, I long to follow Jesus,
For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day, I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me."*

If there is any extra time left, we will invite anyone who may want to come forward and share their memories or thoughts about Hung-Wen.

The Blessing

Officiant: The Peace of God that passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And the blessing of God, Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and with you always.

People: **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ!
Go in peace, confident in the hope of the resurrection!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Organ Postlude

Kerry Heimann

*It Is Well With My Soul - Horatio G. Spafford/Philip P. Bliss
I Love You Lord - Laurie Klein*

Burial Service
Princeton Cemetery
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Opening Sentences:

Rev. Allen Wakabayashi

Officiant:

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me. He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit. My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Scripture Readings

Psalms 32:1-7 (NIV)

Waverly Wang, granddaughter

- 1 Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
- 2 Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.
- 3 When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.
- 6 Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.
- 7 You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 23 (NKJV)

Olivia Wang, granddaughter

1 The LORD *is* my shepherd;
I shall not want.

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.

3 He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You *are* with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hung-Wen's Favorite Hymn

Soloist

Franklin Phillips, baritone

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
- Wallace Willis

*Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.*

*I looked over Jordan, and what did I see,
Coming for to carry me home?
A band of angels coming after me,
Coming for to carry me home.*

*If you get there before I do,
Coming for to carry me home,
Tell all my friends I'm coming too,
Coming for to carry me home.*

*I'm sometimes up and sometimes down,
Coming for to carry me home,
But still my soul feels heavenly bound,
Coming for to carry me home.*

Casting Earth

Officiant:

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Hung-Wen, and we commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace.

All: Amen.

The urn is now placed in the vault, which is then placed in the ground. Then the People are invited to cast earth into the gravesite.

Officiant: Rest eternal grant to *him*, O Lord;

People: And let light perpetual shine upon him.

Officiant: May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People: Amen.

If there is any extra time left, we will invite anyone who may want to come forward and share their memories or thoughts about Hung-Wen.

The Blessing

Officiant: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Dismissal

Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

Go in peace, confident in the hope of the resurrection!

People: Thanks be to God!

Participants in the Services:

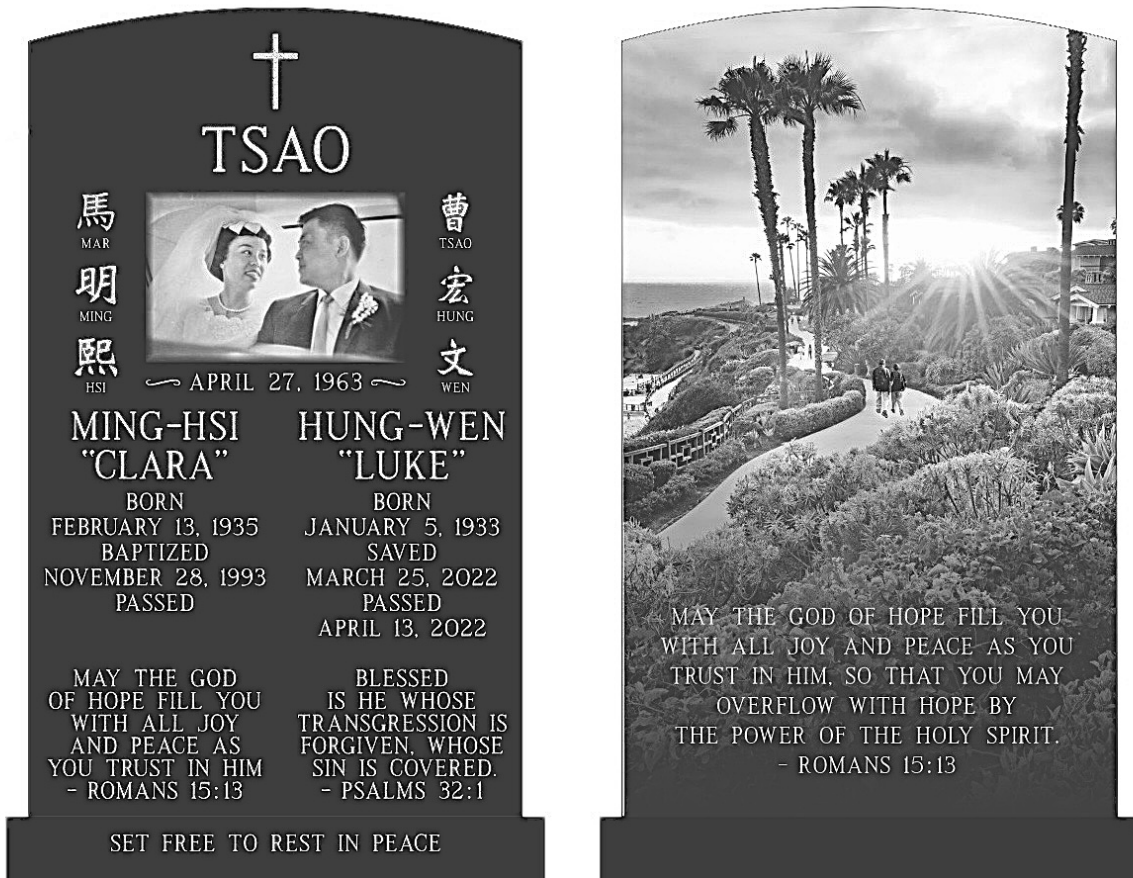
Officiant: Rev. Allen Wakabayashi, Episcopal Chaplain at Princeton University

Organist/Pianist: Kerry Heimann

Soloists: Franklin Phillips, Nicole Aldrich

Scripture Readers: Christopher Wang, Emily Wang, Waverly Wang, Olivia Wang

This is the design of the gravestone that is being made for him now and that will be installed later this year:



Tribute

Hung-Wen (Luke) Tsao
January 5, 1933 - April 13, 2022



Portrait by Olivia Wang

After several weeks of harrowing struggle in home hospice my father, Hung-Wen, finally passed away peacefully and painlessly at his home in Laguna Woods, California on April 13, 2022. He was 89 years old, of which he exclaimed at one point "I can't believe I am still alive!"

Hung-Wen was born in Beijing, China on January 5, 1933 into a well-known political family of the Nationalist Government (Kuomintang, KMT) during a turbulent time in China's history, when it was fighting both a civil war with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and an international war with Japan. His father was Teh-Hsuan Tsao, the last elected senator of Shenyang/Mukden (located in the northeast of China) and an outspoken member of the Control Yuan branch of government. His mother was Ya-Nan Chang, a schoolteacher. Although he was the 1st born of 8 children to his mother, Hung-Wen was also considered the 5th born out of 17 children to his father who had 4 wives. To escape the bombing from the Japanese near the coast, he was sent with some of his siblings to attend boarding schools in Sichuan province which is located more inland, towards the center of China. So you can see he probably experienced a lot of drama growing up.

As the CCP was eventually victorious over the KMT in the Chinese civil war, he fled with his family and with the KMT government to Taiwan. There he attended Tamkang University, a junior college in Dansui District, and graduated in 1953 with an Associate's degree in English literature. He was about to take on a job working for the United States as a translator for Americans stationed in South Korea, but instead got an opportunity to attend undergraduate college in the United States on a student visa. In 1954, he entered Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York and graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science in Math. From there he went down to Tallahassee, Florida to study for a master's degree in math at Florida State University, but left the program after one year in order to take a job in 1961 with IBM (International Business Machines), at their Times Square office in New York City, working as a computer programmer and mathematician. He was soon transferred upstate to their Research & Development offices in Poughkeepsie, New York. In 1972, he became a naturalized United States citizen at age 39. He worked for IBM for 28 years, being inducted into their Quarter Century Club in 1986 and retiring in 1990.

Soon after he started to work for IBM, he met his future wife, Ming-Hsi (Clara) Mar, through his sister Theresa and mutual friends Chung-Li Ling and May Lee, when he would visit them in New York City on the weekends. A double date with Chung-Li and May on Long Island's Jones Beach led to a first date at

the New York City Central Park skating rink. Neither of them knew how to skate so that gave them a good reason to hold on to each other. On April 27, 1963, they were married at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church on Manhattan's upper east side, and remained married for just short of 59 years. Together, they had a son Thomas and a daughter Judy (that's me). He enjoyed being a doting Gong Gong (grandpa) to his 4 grandchildren, showering them with hong bao (gift money) almost every time he saw them!

Although Hung-Wen was baptized into the Catholic faith sometime before he arrived in the United States (perhaps when he was in Taiwan), he was never actually a practicing Catholic. However, he was someone who tried to live his life with integrity and honesty as best he knew so when it came to faith in God he wanted to resist any pretense to believe just because others around him believed. Despite his resistance, God found him in the end. Due to heart failure, he entered hospice care at home and had to suffer through several bouts of intense terminal agitation before finally accepting a commitment prayer recited over him by 3 of his caregivers (me, my mother and his caregiver Gil) standing around his hospice bed. Shortly thereafter, he was able to pass peacefully into God's presence on April 13, 2022.

He is preceded in death by his son Thomas Cliff Tsao, parents Teh-Hsuan Tsao and Ya-Nan Chang, Auntie Yah-Chuan Kai, sister Helen Tu and brother-in-law Chu-Ping Tu, sister Theresa Wang and brother-in-law Yun-Shen Wang, sister Agnes Tsao, sister Cecelia Tsao, brother John Tsao, brother Bruce Tsao, as well as 4 other siblings who did not survive their childhood.

He is followed in death by his sister Julia Chiu.

He is survived by his wife Clara Ming-Hsi Tsao, daughter Judy Tsao Wang and son-in-law Frank Yu-Heng Wang, grandson Christopher Wang, granddaughter Emily Wang, granddaughter Waverly Wang, granddaughter Olivia Wang, sister Rose Wong and brother-in-law Mitchel Wong, sister Maria Goretti Tsao, sister-in-law Irene Tsao, sister-in-law Fang-Zi Tsao, brother Joseph Tsao and sister-in-law Lily Lawn-Tsao, brother Alex Tsao and sister-in-law Sou-Tung Tsao, brother James Tsao and sister-in-law Susan Tsao, niece Tricia To (Trang), nephew Glenn Scott (Laura Reiher), niece Jacqueline Scott Sheid, nephew Michael Wong (Wendy), nephew Shaun Wong (Christine), nephew Patrick Wong (Cherry), nephew Shannon Wong (Betty), nephew Paul Chiu (Sharon Juang), niece May F. Chiu, nephew Andrew Tsao (Carol), niece Beatrice Tsao (Mark Blanchfield), nephew Alan Tsao, nephew David Tsao, niece Elsa Tsao, niece Joanne Tsao (Kit Wilson), nephew Lee Tsao (Wendy), nephew Hwa Tsao (Helen), nephew Jim Tsao (Danielle Schwartz), many grandnieces and grandnephews and many more relatives through my mom's side of the family. We would like to also give a special acknowledgement to two of his hospice caregivers who took such loving care of him those last weeks in hospice: Gil (Angel) Perez and Amy Romero. They treated him as if he was their own father and we are forever grateful to them.

Note: The following is a copy of the prayer of commitment through which my father was saved. It was given to me by Gemma, our main hospice nurse.

Dear Jesus, you have promised that if I believe in you, everything I've ever done wrong will be forgiven, I will learn the purpose of my life, and you will accept me into your eternal home in heaven one day.

"I confess my sin, and I receive you into my life as my Lord and Savior. Today, I'm turning every part of my life over to you. I want to follow you and do what you tell me to do.

"Jesus, I am grateful for your love and for your sacrifice that makes it possible for me to join you in heaven. I know I don't deserve it. And I thank you that I don't have to earn or work for my salvation, because I know that is impossible. I want to use the rest of my life to serve you instead of serving myself. I humbly commit my life to you, and I ask you to save me and accept me into your family. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."