

*A Service of Worship in Celebration of the Life of*  
**Robert Brian Eloy Williams**

**September 8, 1956 – October 7, 2011**



Robert Brian Eloy Williams was born September 8, 1956, to the parents of Charles and the late Marie Williams. Brian was a graduate from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and was employed as a clerk in the federal court in both Cincinnati, Ohio, and Chicago, Illinois.

Brian was the co-founder of Front Runners of Chicago and ran in several marathons. He was a member of Grace Baptist Church for many years where he taught Sunday School. Brian later joined with Broadway United Methodist Church where he was active in the education program. Brian was a loyal member of the Women's Cancer Project and a loving Godfather of Yasmin Morris. He was a courageous fighter and long time survivor of AIDS. Brian transitioned from this life on October 7, 2011.

*Saturday, December 17, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.*

*Broadway United Methodist Church  
3338 N Broadway St, Chicago, IL 60657*

## **The Music of Preparation**

*Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore...Because I live, you shall live also.*

## **Gathering in this Season**

### **\* The Call to Awareness**

We are a gathered people. We have come from many places, from many thoughts, from many lives. Let us name our purpose in being here.

**This day we declare ourselves a gathered people around the powerful moments of life and death.**

Death has been present. But we have not come to honor death.

**We affirm death - it is real. But we do not celebrate it. We celebrate life.  
The life of Robert Brian Eloy Williams.**

The preciousness, power and beauty of his life may be declared even in the face of death. A human life is sacred.

**Today we have come together as community and family to remember and to celebrate the sacredness of life.**

**\* The Hymn of Praise**.....“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”.....UMH 140

**Prayer**..... Rev. Vernice Thorn

### **Lighting of the Candles**

We light the Christ Candle, a symbol of the mysterious Power that animates and sustains every living thing.

\* Please stand as you are able. **Bold type** within liturgy indicates congregational response.

We light a candle in honor and celebration of Robert Brian Eloy Williams, a loving spiritual man, who touched many lives.

We light a candle in honor and celebration of Marie W. Williams, Brian's mother, who passed away on November 14, 2011 – a teacher, a wife, a mother.

**Solo** .....“What Child is This?”.....Amy Wells, soloist

**The Words of Assurance**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, we belong to God. Even as we mourn the loss of Brian and Marie, we celebrate the gift of life, the gift of family and the gift of love, for it is love that brings us together today. We are thankful for the love that never dies. Amen.**

**A Moment of Silence**

**The Old Testament Lesson** ..... Isaiah 40:21-26.....Diana Davis, friend

**The Gospel Lesson** .....from John 14 .....Jim Sullivan, friend

**A Song of Affirmation** .....“You Are Mine” ..... FS 2218

**The Cloud of Witnesses:**

**Celebrating the Witness of Robert Brian Williams' Life**

**The Word in Scripture**.....Hebrew 12:1-3

**Witness**.....Alyce Mobley-Morris, friend

**The Word in Scripture**..... from Psalm 91 ..... Yasmin Morris, Goddaughter

**Witness**.....Debbie Savaiano, friend

**The Word in Scripture**..... Isaiah 43:1-3a .....Helen Nagel, friend

**Witness**.....Rev. Lois McCullen Parr

**The Word in Scripture**..... from Philipians 3-4 ..... Pam Babler, friend

**Witness**.....Rev. Jacki Belile

**A Song of Commitment** .....“Heal Me, Hands of Jesus”..... UMH 262

**Time of Silence**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\* The Benediction**

**\* The Song of Sending** ..... “Go Tell it on the Mountain” ..... UMH 251



**Leadership for the service:**

**Officiants:** Reverends Jackie Belile,  
Lois McCullen Parr, Vernice Thorn

**Pianist:** Samuel-Hilaire Duplessis

**Soloist:** Amy Wells

**Family and Friends:** Pam Babler,  
Diana Davis, Alyce Mobley-Morris, Yasmin  
Morris, Helen Nagel, Debbie Savaiano,  
Jim Sullivan