



The Memorial Service For
DR. GERALD W. GIBSON

June 11, 2021 | Clayton Center for the Arts



Oct. 27, 1937 – May 20, 2021



MEMORIAL FOR DR. GERALD W. GIBSON

THE PROCESSION	Bagpipes
WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER	The Rev. Dr. Anne D. McKee Campus Minister
TRIBUTE “A Life of Energy, Intelligence, Imagination, and Love”	Dr. Bryan F. Coker President
TRIBUTE “Gerald Gibson: The Right Leader at the Right Time”	Sheridan H. Greaser ’60 Former Vice Chairman, MC Board of Directors
ANTHEM “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”	By Robert Robinson
TRIBUTE “Family Remembrances”	Mark Webb Nephew
SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 4:8-9, Proverbs 3:5-6	Dr. Mary Kay Sullivan Professor Emerita
MEDITATION	Rev. McKee
POETRY READING “Old” by Gerald W. Gibson	Laura Case Assistant to the President (Retired)
PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER	Rev. McKee
HYMN* “Be Thou My Vision” <i>*The congregation is asked to stand and sing</i>	Lyrics by Eleanor Hull Music by David Evans
BENEDICTION	Rev. McKee
MUSICAL RESPONSE “It Is Well With My Soul”	Lyrics by Horatio G. Spafford Music by Philip Paul Bliss
THE RECESSION	Bagpipes

LEADING THE SERVICE OF MUSIC

Piper: Andrew Kerr

Vocal Trio: Jordan ’18 and Madalyn Carpenter McCullough ’18, W. Alex McCullough ’19

The Gibson Family will receive friends in the William Baxter Lee III Grand Foyer following the service. Also, the public is invited to visit the grave in the College Cemetery, which is located adjacent the McArthur Pavilion.

“Be Thou My Vision”

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 soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, 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, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that gifts be made to the Gerald Gibson Professional Development Fund at Maryville College, 502 E. Lamar Alexander Pkwy, Maryville, TN 37804 or online at www.maryvillecollege.edu/givetoday.

Old

Not much is left
of life,
I know.

The loaf is sliced
down to the heel
and in a trice
the last crumb
could fall.

I feel it all:
the aches, the pains,
the fears, the doubts.

But I have worshipped
with my father,
savored my mother's meals,
known great love,
and seen my children's children.
As sleep comes,
I feel full.

— **Gerald Gibson**
Maryville, 2020

We are thankful to everyone who attended today. Your calls, notes, visits, and especially your stories and memories of Gerald have brought comfort in this difficult time. Gerald believed that no matter your circumstance, you could choose happiness, because it comes from within. We encourage each of you to carry that torch onward.

—The Gibson Family

OBITUARY FOR DR. GERALD W. GIBSON



Dr. Gerald W. Gibson, father, husband, granddaddy, and President Emeritus of Maryville College, passed away May 20, following an extended illness. He was 83. He was a member of New Providence Presbyterian Church in Maryville, TN.

Gibson enjoyed a 45-year career in higher education and often reminded his family, “Knowledge is power.” A native of Saluda County, S.C., he spent much of his childhood in Spartanburg. He studied chemistry and earned degrees at Wofford College (B.S.) and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (Ph.D.) and served as a member of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps prior to joining the faculty at the College of Charleston in 1965. He served as chair of the chemistry department at the College of Charleston from 1968 until 1982, when he was named associate provost for academic affairs at the College. In 1984, he left to become vice president and dean of Roanoke College in Salem, Va., where he served for the next nine years.

Gibson was inaugurated as Maryville College’s 10th president in 1993 and retired in 2010. Credited with leading the College into its current state of historic strength, he took the helm when enrollment at MC was 752 students, and the College’s endowment was valued

at around \$12.5 million. At the conclusion of his 17-year tenure, the College had celebrated a record enrollment of 1,176 undergraduates and an endowment value of \$55 million.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Otis and Mavis Smart Gibson; and numerous uncles, aunts, and cousins. He is survived by wife Rachel Plummer Gibson; children Holly Gibson Yalove (Jay), Laura Gibson Owens (Casey), and Paul Gibson (Amanda); grandchildren Alexandra and Madeline Yalove, Annabelle Owens, and Isaac Gibson; sister Norma Webb; many brothers-and-sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and countless cousins.

Gerald Gibson was a talented poet, painter, woodworker, and author of several books, most recently, the memoir of his tenure at Maryville College, *Tenth Watch*. He enjoyed singing and playing tenor guitar. He relished tending an extensive hosta garden, and had a passion for researching genealogy. He had the honor of serving on numerous non-profit boards and volunteering during Kin Takahashi Week on the Maryville College campus.

He believed that no matter your circumstance, you could choose happiness. He always told his family that happiness comes from inside, not from outside.

A private interment took place in the College's cemetery on May 24.