

Today we have gathered here to honor the memory of Tom MacDonald.

We've already heard a eulogy given by Rev.

And we've just heard the familiar texts from Scripture ... from Ecclesiastes, and St. John's Gospel.

Tom was born in 1929, a time different than our own ... yet also very similar.

Born, as well that year were: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr; Audrey Hepburn; Anne Frank; Imelda Marcos; Jackie Kennedy (Onassis); Yasser Arafat; Bob Newhart; Ed Asner; and Dick Clark.

Those who died that year include Karl Benz (of Mercedes Benz fame); and gunslinger Wyatt Earp passed away.

Blessed Mother Teresa arrived in Calcutta from her previous posting in Ireland.

Herbert Hoover succeeded Calvin Coolidge to the U.S. Presidency.

The cartoon character Popeye made his debut.

It was a year of firsts: the first Monaco Grand Prix was run, won by William Grover-Williams driving a Bugatti; and in Hollywood, the first Academy Awards were held ... the silent film *Wings* about World War I received Best Picture.

In Europe, the Lateran Treaty recognized the Vatican City as a sovereign state; and Pope Pius XI entered St. Peter's Square - ending nearly 60 years of popes never appearing in public.

Bell Labs demonstrated the first color television.

That autumn, the Stock Market crashed - bringing with it the Great Depression.

The Museum of Modern Art opened in New York.

And India declared its independence from Great Britain.

Indeed, a world different from our own, yet similar in many ways.

While God has placed us all on this earth to achieve whatever purpose He has appointed to us, we are made for eternity.

And so, even more than honoring Thomas W. MacDonald Senior for a life well-lived, let us accompany him on this - his final journey - with our prayers. Let us remember that while things change and times change, the one constant factor in all things is love, and the love that binds us in this life continues to connect us in the next.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.