This I Believe

I believe that to comprehend our vast universe, with its millions of fiery stars and frightening dark holes, we must answer the basic question, “Who created the universe?”

We know that Earth, which was spun off from the sun, is a planet with a beginning. Moreover, we know that Earth, once a fiery ball, has cooled and gained life upon its surface with static, non-thinking plants and mobile, thinking animals. We do not know where the first manifestation of that life — the tiniest amoeba — came from. To ignite the spark of life required the hand of God.

Hence, I believe first, that God exists.

Until this time, at least, man has evolved far beyond any other animals on Earth in comprehension and intelligence. The carnivores exceed man’s strength on land; the amphibians surpass his power at sea. But man has the gift of reason, which enables him to dominate life on earth — and the chance to survive as long as the solar system remains hospitable to him. That chance, alas, is not eternal.

And, thus, I believe human life is finite.

Within these limits of survivability man holds his destiny in his own hands. He has yet to prove his worthiness. In the last century he destroyed more of his own kind in war and in merciless murder than at any other time in history. He has the capability of obliterating himself and all other life upon this planet. And he seems unable to appreciate the consequences of that power. The life that God gave to him may be by him destroyed.

And so, I believe human existence is in peril.

The challenge to humanity is to establish and maintain the foundations of peace and justice upon the Earth for the centuries to come. We must learn to end war and protect life, to seek justice and find mercy, to help others and embrace compassion. Each person must respect every other person and honor the God who made this incredible mystery of human life a reality.

I believe the time of man on planet Earth will then be justified.

I believe there is God,
I believe God is merciful and just,
But if man desires to destroy himself
I believe God will not save him.

Whitney Harris - St. Louis, Missouri
As written and recorded for NPR, June 12, 2006
23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,
He leadeth me beside the still waters,
He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, For thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.
Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

The family of Whitney R. Harris wishes to express their deep gratitude to
the following members of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra for their
performance:

David Halen, Concertmaster, Eloise and Oscar Johnson, Jr. Chair
Miran Cha Halen, soprano
Haruka Watanabe, violin, Jane & Whitney Harris Chair
Ayako Watanabe, harp
Mike Chen, viola
Melissa Brooks, cello, Associate Principal, Ruth and Bernard Fischlowitz Chair
Erik Harris, bass, Principal, Henry Loew Chair
Sunday, May 23, 2010
12 noon
Graham Chapel
Washington University in St. Louis

Reception immediately following
Westwood Country Club
11801 Conway Road
St. Louis, MO 63131
Whitney R. Harris Memorial Service

Prelude

*Adagio from Quintet in C major D. 956 Op. 163*

*Franz Schubert*

David Halen, violin
Haruka Watanabe, violin
Mike Chen, viola
Melissa Brooks, cello
Erik Harris, bass

*Lord’s Prayer*

Miran Cha Halen, soprano

Introduction and Remarks

William H. Danforth, *Chancellor Emeritus*

*Washington University in St. Louis*

Remarks

Mark S. Wrighton, *Chancellor*

*Washington University in St. Louis*

Interlude

*Élégie*

*Jules Massenet*

Miran Cha Halen, soprano
David Halen, violin
Ayako Watanabe, harp

Remarks

Professor John Q. Barrett, *St. John’s University School of Law, New York City, and Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow, Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, New York*
Interlude

Lento from “American” Quartet N. 12 in F, Op. 96
Antonin Dvořák
David Halen, violin
Haruka Watanabe, violin
Mike Chen, viola
Melissa Brooks, cello
Erik Harris, bass

Reflections

The Honorable Hans-Peter Kaul
Second Vice-President of the International Criminal Court
The Hague, The Netherlands

Leila Nadya Sadat, Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law
and Director, Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute,
Washington University School of Law

Patrick L. Osborne, Ph.D., Executive Director, Whitney R. Harris
World Ecology Center, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Gregory L. Peterson, Partner, Phillips Lytle LLP and President,
Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, New York

Interlude

Meditation from Thaïs
Jules Massenet
Haruka Watanabe, violin
Ayako Watanabe, harp

Reflections from Family

Eugene Harris, son of Whitney R. Harris

Closing Remarks

William H. Danforth

Postlude
**Whitney R. Harris is survived by:**

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<tr>
<th>Anna Harris</th>
<th>Kara Galakatos</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eugene Harris</td>
<td>John Galakatos</td>
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<td>Lori Harris</td>
<td>Theresa Galakatos</td>
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<td>Addie Harris</td>
<td>Augusta Barwick</td>
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<td>Eli Harris</td>
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<td>Robert Redpath</td>
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<td>Jenna Galakatos</td>
<td>Charlene Redpath</td>
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Mr. Harris was predeceased by his parents, Olin Whitney and Lily Georgine Harris; his sister, Margaret Redpath; his wife, Jane Freund Foster Harris; and his grandson, David Foster.

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep gratitude the wonderful care Whitney received from his doctors – Dr. Paul Schultz, Dr. Donald Morris, Dr. Lawrence Mendelow, Dr. Guy Chambers, and Dr. Stephen Pieper – and his loving caretakers – Eric Collins, Barbara Watkins, Cynthia Griffin, Terry Luster, and Frederika Villhard, R.N.
Safely Home

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
   Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
   In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,
   Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly
   Trod the valley of the shade?
Oh! but Jesus’ love illumined,
   Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me
   In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus’ arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,
   For I love you dearly still;
Try to look beyond earth’s shadows,
   Pray to trust our Father’s Will.

There is work still waiting for you,
   So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth –
   You shall rest in Jesus’ land.

When that work is all completed,
   He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
   Oh, the joy to see you come!
Escallonia harrisii F. Zapata sp.nov.  
Family: Escalloniaceae

**Etymology:** The specific epithet is in honor of Whitney R. Harris, who has long supported the center that now bears his name, the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Through the support provided by this center, several generations of biologists from throughout the world have been able to contribute to the study, understanding, and conservation of temperate and tropical ecosystems worldwide.

**Habit:** Small profusely branched shrubs with slender twigs, small narrowly elliptic leaves, and single flowers with red petals.

**Ecology:** It is likely that the plants flower from December through March during the rainy season. Apparently very common locally and has never been found growing side by side with any other species of *Escallonia*. It grows in sandstone ridges and cliffs covered with dry forest, mostly on steep slopes between 1400-1500 m above sea level in southern Bolivia.