

The Reverend Nicholas Piediscalzi, Ph.D., passed peacefully on July 1, 2026, at the age of 95, surrounded by his loving family. He leaves behind a legacy of love and service, having dedicated his life to his family, friends and the pursuit of peace and justice around the world.

Born on April 10, 1931, Nick was raised by his loving parents, Michael and Mary, in Chicago, Illinois along with his brother Alfred and sister Carol. He was surrounded by a big, noisy Italian family who were always there to support, encourage and keep him in line.

He graduated from Grinnell College with a B.A. in Philosophy and from Yale University with a Master of Divinity. After serving for four years as Campus Minister at United Church of Christ in Berkeley, CA he decided to leave the pastoral ministry to pursue an academic career and went on to Boston University to receive a Ph.D. in Religious Studies. With Ph.D. in hand he headed to Dayton, Ohio where he founded and chaired the Department of Religious Studies at Wright State University. He had a distinguished teaching career that included directing the Masters of Humanity Program and creating the Public Education Religious Studies Center (PERSC). After retiring he continued teaching as an adjunct professor at UC Santa Barbara.

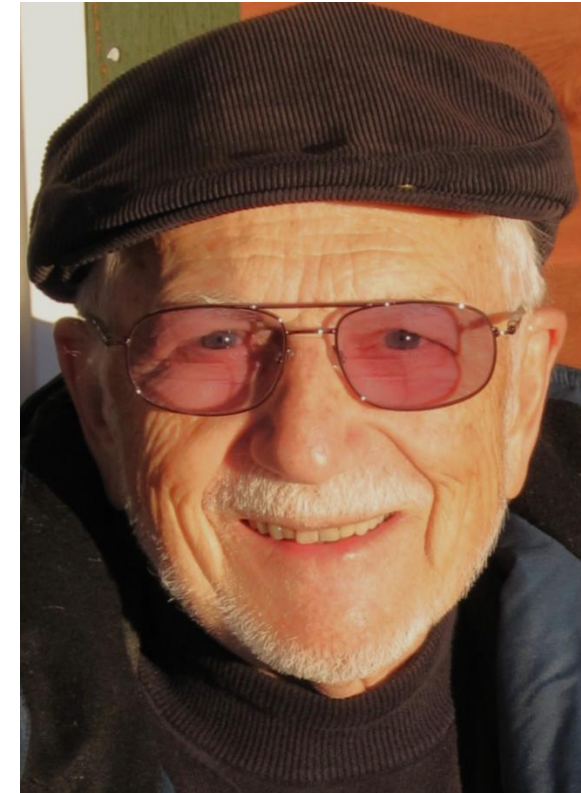
One of the core pillars of his belief system was that spirituality is integral to all cultures, and therefore by understanding and respecting each others' religious practices and traditions, greater peace can be achieved in the world.

He had an adventurous spirit and spent his life travelling the world. His nickname was "Mr. Rolodex" because he made friends and long-lasting connections in every place he went. His love language was ice-cream and the grandkids always said; "With Papa, all roads lead to ice-cream!"

Nick was a devoted husband, brother, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather. He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Sibyl, his sister Carol Rohr (Terry), his six children: Michelle Holstein (Bill), Lisa Piediscalzi (Kirk), Nick Piediscalzi, Chris Carter (Terri), Teresa Walters (Schuyler), and Mike Carter, and his grandchildren: Sarah, Jacqueline (Will), Eleanora, Elias, Jack, Michael (Vikki), Stephen, David and Schuyler, as well as 9 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Mary, and brother, Alfred.

In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated and can be made to: Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County: thefoodbank.org/donate/

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SANTA CRUZ



A Service of Thanksgiving to God
for the Life of

THE REV. DR. NICHOLAS PIEDISCALZI
10 April 1931 – 1 July 2026

Saturday 18 July 2026
11:00 a.m.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, **let me sow love**;
where there is injury, **pardon**;
where there is doubt, **faith**;
where there is despair, **hope**;
where there is darkness, **light**;
and where there is sadness, **joy**.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

(attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, c.1181-1226)

PRELUDE	Luke Shepherd, piano & vocals	
	<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i> - J. S. Bach <i>Today</i> - J. Denver & R. Sparks	
WELCOME AND INVOCATION	The Rev. David Pattee	
HYMN [insert]	<i>Morning Has Broken</i>	BUNESSAN
READINGS	<i>Psalm 23</i> <i>Hokusai Says</i> - Roger S. Keyes <i>Wild Geese</i> - Mary Oliver	Chris Carter Michelle Holstein Nick Piediscalzi
REMEMBRANCES	Lisa Piediscalzi	
MEDITATION	<i>What A Wonderful World</i>	G. Davis & G. Weiss
REMEMBRANCES	The Rev. Speed Leas	
MEDITATION	<i>Pie Jesu</i>	Andrew Lloyd Webber
PRAYERS	Sibyl Piediscalzi	
HYMN [insert]	<i>When the Saints Go Marching In</i>	African-American Trad.
BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	<i>Happy Trails to You</i> Art and Sandy Schuller	Dale Evans

*Immediately following the service, please join the family in our fellowship hall for
a time of refreshments and sharing.*

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4.D.
Gaelic Melody

Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

Harm. by David Evans, 1927

Unison

Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Oh, when the saints go marching in,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in.

Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call,
Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in.

And on the hallelujah day,
And on that hallelujah day,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
on that hallelujah day.

Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Oh, when the saints go marching in,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in.

The musical score for 'Morning Has Broken' is presented in a unison format. It features a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a 2/4 time signature. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into four systems, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are: 1. Morn - ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has; 2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first; 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the; spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion,; Praise for the morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word! Of the wet gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where his feet pass. Praise ev - ery morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!