

A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING



IN MEMORY OF VERLAINE ALICE DUNCAN

APRIL 15, 1928 – AUGUST 20, 2021

PROCESSION

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

C: Amen.

HYMN

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST
O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

GREETING

L: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with consolation we ourselves have received from God.

C: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

L: God of grace and glory, we remember before you today, our sister, Verlaine. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

READING

“DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL”

BY HENRY SCOTT-HOLLAND

BIBLE READINGS

FIRST THESSALONIANS 4:13-14 NRSV

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24 RSV

²²The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. ²⁴“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:10-13 NRSV

¹⁰My beloved speaks and says to me: “Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; ¹¹for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. ¹²The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. ¹³The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

GALATIANS 5:22-23 NRSV

²²“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law.”

REMEMBRANCES

HYMN

IN THE GARDEN

verse 1—songleader

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.

*refrain and
verses 2-3—all*

Refrain: And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. *Refrain*

I’d stay in the garden with Him,
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling. *Refrain*

MESSAGE

PASTOR VERN CHRISTOPHERSON

PIANO SOLO

IN THE GARDEN
RICHARD DUNCAN, PIANO

ARR. MARK HAYES

READING

“LET ME GO”

BY CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

PRAYER

L: God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

L: Lord, remember us when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMENDATION

L: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Verlaine Alice Duncan. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

C: Amen.

HYMN 805

LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL!

Lead on, O King eternal!
The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy
the heav'nly kingdom comes.

continued on next page

Lead on, O King eternal:
we follow, not with fears,

for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us;
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!

BLESSING

L: Let us go forth in peace, in the name of Christ. Amen.

RECESSIONAL

Verlaine's family would like to extend a special thank you to everyone for your prayers, your love and support, your words of comfort, and the many acts of kindness they have received. Thanks be to God!

Following the service, you are invited to a dessert reception in the Gathering Place on the main level.

Verlaine and Rodney will be laid to rest in the Cannon Falls Cemetery at a later date.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

OFFICIANT-PASTOR VERN CHRISTOPHERSON; ORGANIST-KRISTY GIERE; SONGLEADER-JANETTE DAVIS

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Hearing Loop installed. Switch hearing aid to T-Coil.



Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.

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Verlaine Alice Duncan, age 93, passed away August 20 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

Born April 15, 1928 on a farm near Nerstrand to Clarence and Alice Fogelson. She was the first of their six children.

Following her graduation from Kenyon High School in 1946, she moved to Cannon Falls to begin her first job as a telephone operator.

There she met and became engaged to Rodney Duncan, a son of the couple she was renting a room from. They were married in 1947 and immediately began to build a family that ultimately resulted in six children. Other than working briefly as a bookkeeper during the “empty nest” stage later in her life, her profession was always that of a hard-working homemaker. She lovingly fulfilled her responsibilities and never failed, even as her children grew into their adult years, to respond whenever one of them called out for “Mom.” Once Rodney retired, they began dividing each year between RV camping in Arizona during the winter and summer stays at their end-of-the-road cabin on Grace Lake near Bemidji, a retreat which they had lovingly cared for and built up over many years. It was here that Verlaine was able to passionately pursue her love of both flowers and birds.

Almost to the very end she had the physical and mental strength of a much younger woman. Nothing was more important to her than family, and the love she demonstrated for her own ever-expanding family knew no boundaries. She was a model of soft-spoken kindness and compassion, always good-natured and intently interested in everything that was going on around her and in the lives of her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by Rodney, her loving husband of just over 69 years; her parents; one sister, Marjean Urness and two brothers, Ronnie and Leonard. She is survived by her daughter Barb (Bob) Mulder and sons Richard, Gary (Jodi), Doug, Randy (Kim), and Tim (Theresa); also one sister Harriet (Jim) Gloss and one brother, Harold. She was also proud and grateful to have been blessed with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester on August 31 at 1:30. It will also be live-streamed and available for later viewing on the church’s website. Memorials are preferred to The Nature Conservancy or Zumbro Lutheran Church.



A COMMITTAL SERVICE IN MEMORY OF VERLAINE ALICE DUNCAN

HYMN

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 43:1-4 NRSV

L: But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.

PRAYER

L: Holy God, holy and powerful, by the death and burial of Jesus your anointed, you have destroyed the power of death and made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our sister, Verlaine, whose body we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints. And at the last, O God, raise her up to share with all the faithful the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

COMMENDATION

L: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister, Verlaine Alice Duncan, and we commit her body to the ground; earth to earth; ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord's face shine on her with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon her with favor and + give her peace. Amen.

Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let your perpetual light shine upon her.

O Lord, support us all the day long in this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and a peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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“LET ME GO”

BY CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom filled room
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little, but not for long

And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that once we shared
Miss me, but let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all part of the master plan
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know.
Laugh at all the things we used to do
Miss me, but let me go.



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