




A Reconciling in Christ congregation,  
celebrating the diversity of God's children  
and fostering understanding  
and healing in community 

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## Celebration of Life and Witness to the Resurrection



**Mary L. Watts**

**November 11, 1926 – September 3, 2024**

**November 23, 2024 + 1:30 pm**

**Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...**

*an adventure for life!*

## WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

### Prelude

*Thy Holy Wings*  
*Shall We Gather at the River*  
*Here I Am, Lord*  
*This is My Father's World*  
*Lift High the Cross*

arranged by John Carter  
arranged by John Carter  
arranged by John Carter  
arranged by Joel Raney  
arranged by John Carter

### Welcome and Opening Prayer

### Hymn

### Softly and Tenderly

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*  
watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea-ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,  
 Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909  
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

## WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

### **Reading**                      **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14** (New International Version)

A reading from St. Paul's first letter to the church at Thessalonica

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

### **Reading**                      **Revelation 22:5** (New International Version)

A reading from the revelation to John

There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

## Sung Gospel

### *In My Father's House*

Pepper Choplin  
Senior Choir

The disciples grew closer to hear the words of promise of the Lord:  
"If you hear the truth, I say, and follow in my way, then great will be your  
heaven's reward."

*(Refrain)* And He said, "In my Father's house there are many mansions.  
In my Father's house there is room.  
And all who believe will come to live with me.  
For in my Father's house I'll prepare a place for you."

"Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God, believe thou in Me.  
For if you will believe in heaven you will see  
the glory of the great I AM." And He said, *(Refrain)*

"I will always be with you, through every step you'll never walk alone.  
And when my earthly days are over I will come again to welcome you  
home.

I tell you, in my Fathers' house there are many mansions.  
In my Father's house there is room.  
And all who believe will come to live with me.  
For in my Father's house, I'll prepare a place for you.  
In my Father's house, in my Fathers house,  
in my Father's house there is room."

## Gone from my Sight

Henry Van Dyke

I am standing upon the seashore.  
A ship, at my side, spreads her white sails to the moving breeze  
and starts for the blue ocean.  
She is an object of beauty and strength.  
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck of white cloud,  
just where the sea and sky meet to mingle with each other.

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."

Gone where?

Gone from my sight. That is all.  
She is just as large in mast, hull and spar  
as she was when she left my side.  
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.  
Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.

And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone,"  
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices  
ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"

## Musical Reflection

### ***Farther Along***

*Trio by Kathy Rapp, Karen Kent and Emily Kent*

Tempted and tried, we're oft made to wonder  
Why it should be thus all the day long;  
While there are others living about us,  
Never molested, though in the wrong.

*(Refrain)* Farther along we'll know all about it,  
Farther along we'll understand why;  
Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine,  
We'll understand it all by and by.

When death has come and taken our loved ones,  
It leaves our home so lonely and drear,  
Then do we wonder why others prosper,  
Living so wicked year after year. *(Refrain)*

When we see Jesus coming in glory,  
when He comes from His home in the sky  
then we shall meet Him in that bright mansion.  
We'll understand it all by and by *(Refrain)*

Yes, we'll understand it all by and by.

## Spoken Reflections

Eulogy

Reflections

Other Reflections

Emily Kent

Dave Shull

## Musical Reflection

### ***Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us***

arranged by Karen L. Buckwalter

*Chime Choir*

## Closing Prayer

# WE ARE SENT

## Hymn

## When Peace Like a River

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul,

The musical score consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano lines. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next two lines. The third system contains the next two lines. The fourth system contains the refrain, which is repeated twice.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888  
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

## Commendation

Let us commend Mary to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Mary.

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 of light. **Amen.**

## Benediction

### Postlude

***This Little Light of Mine  
I Am the Bread of Life  
Soon and Very Soon***

arranged by Mark Hayes  
arranged by John Carter  
arranged by John Carter



## **Mary L. Watts**

Mary L. Watts, 97, of Westerville, Ohio passed away unexpectedly on September 3, 2024. She was born on November 11, 1926, in Wing, Illinois to the late Homer and Myrtle Fellers.

Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband of 34 years, Thomas Watts, and her son, Charles Watts.

She is lovingly survived by her sister, Donna (Toby) Day, daughters, Kathy (Robert) Rapp and Karen Kent, her grandchildren, Andy (Terissa) Rapp, Robin (Jason) Fogt, Rebecca Willis, Emily Kent, Thomas Kent, and Jessica Reft, her great-grandchildren, Carmen Cochran, Preston (Ashley) Rapp, Jared Rapp, Andrea Rapp, Miles Smith, Carson Willis, Colson Willis, Cayson Willis, Savannah Reft, and Skyler Reft, her great-great-grandchildren, J.J. Rapp and Maggie Rapp.

She was a member of The Sweet Adeline's Chorus for 25 years and The Gingersnaps for 23 years. She loved to play Euchre.

She will be deeply missed by all those who knew and loved her.



### **Worship Leaders**

Presiding Minister  
Reader

Dave Shull, Pastor  
Miles Smith

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Please join the family in the Narthex for light refreshments.

We are grateful to Kristi Hildebrand for creating the slide show, to Tom Mimlitch for recording the music for today's service, to Kathy Mimlitch for organizing the reception, and to those who prepared and served the luncheon.

Friends may contribute to Redeemer Lutheran Church Remembrance Garden in Mary's memory