

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

# 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...

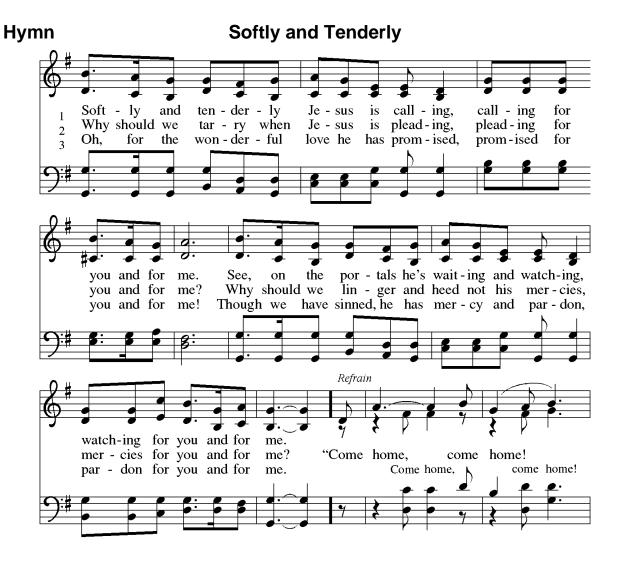
an adventure for life!

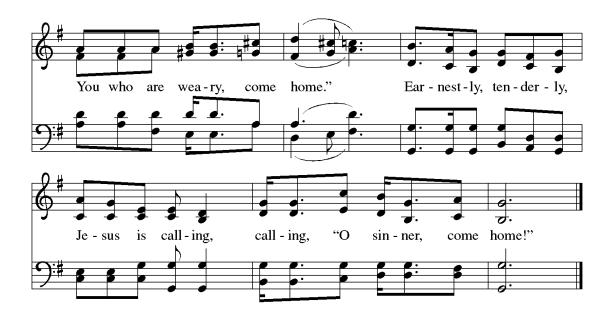
# **WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

## **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**





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."

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**



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.



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