

In Memoriam
Joan Eleanor Jolson
October 7, 1947 – March 10, 2023



Memorial Service and Celebration of Life
Saturday, April 15, 2023
10:00 a.m.

*Officiants: The Rev. Daniel Fournier
and The Rev. Joan Scandrett*

Organist: Susanne Reul-Zastre

Order of Service

Scripture Sentences *(Please stand)*

The steadfast love of God never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
(Lamentations 3: 22-23)

Let not your hearts be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

(John 14: 1-3)

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 8: 38-39)

Words of Welcome: The Rev. Daniel Fournier
(Please be seated)

Remembering Joan:

Eulogy given by Betty Doherty

Hymn: Part of the Family

(Please stand)

**Refrain: Come in, come in and sit down,
You are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
And we are a part of the family.**

**You know the reason why you came,
Yet no reason can explain;
So share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
For we are a part of the family. *(Refrain)***

**God is with us in this place
Like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
For we are a part of the family. (Refrain)**

**There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
We are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
But we are a part of the family. (Refrain)**

**There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
There's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
For we are a part of the family. (Refrain)**

Opening Prayer *(Please remain standing)*

Leader: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray:

Creator and Giver of Life, source of love and joy,
we come into your presence
to celebrate the gift of Joan's life,
and the ways in which she was important to so many.
God, mysterious and mothering,
you are attentive and forgiving.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
may we know the presence and peace
of your constant, caring love.
We pray in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Responsorial Psalm 121: *(Please be seated.)*

Led by The Rev. Joan Scandrett

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-3 (*Reader: Barbara Felsing*)

Reader: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion —
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 14: 1-6 (*Reader: Joanne Jolson*)

Reader: God be with you.

All: And also with you

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to John.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
If it were not so, would I have told you
that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you to myself,
so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going."
Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know
where you are going. How can we know the way?"
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection: *The Rev. Joan Scandrett*

Hymn: CP 531: On Eagle's Wings

(Please stand)

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"**

**(Refrain) And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield. (Refrain)**

**You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. (*Refrain*)**

**For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways.
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

**And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand.
And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand.**

The Prayers (*Please be seated.*)

Priest: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of all, we thank you for Joan,
who was near and dear to us,
and who we miss now and always.

We thank you for the love and friendship she offered
and received while she was with us on earth.

We pray that what was good in Joan's life
will not be lost but will continue to be of benefit to the world;
that all that was important to her
will be respected by those who follow;
and that everything she cared about
will continue to mean much to us.

We pray that those who were close to her
may now be even closer to one another,
and that we all may live in peace and friendship on earth,
ever conscious of your promise to be faithful to us in death.

May God grant us courage and hope in the time ahead.
All this we pray in the name of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Consoling God, giver of all comfort, deal graciously,
we pray, with all who are grieving;
that, casting their care on you,
they may know the consolation of your love,
through Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

God of all consolation, we pray to you
for those we love but see no longer.
Grant them your peace;
let light perpetual shine upon them;
and in your loving wisdom and almighty power,
work in them the good purpose of your perfect will, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer: *(Please stand)*

**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 them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

The Final Commendation: *(Please stay standing)*

Before we go our separate ways,
Let us take leave of our sister, Joan.
May our farewell express our affection for her,
May it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope.
One day we shall joyfully greet her again

When the love of Christ, which conquers all things,
Destroys even death itself.

And so we pray:

Into your merciful care, Loving God,
we commend our loved one, Joan Eleanor Jolson,
In the sure and certain hope

That, together with all who have died in Christ
she will rise with him on the last day.

We give you thanks for the blessings
Which you bestowed upon Joan in this life:

They are signs to us of your goodness
and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

Merciful God,

turn towards us and listen to our prayers:

open the gates of paradise to your servant
and help us to remain

to comfort one another with assurances of faith,
until we all meet in Christ

and are with you and our sister forever. **Amen.**

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Here follows a time of silence.

Priest: Rest eternal grant to her, O God.

All: And let light perpetual shine upon her.

Priest: May her soul, and the souls of all the departed,
by the mercy of God, rest in peace.

All: Amen.

The Blessing

May God give you comfort and peace, light and joy,
in this world and the next;

and the blessing of God,

Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life,

be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

****NOTE** During the singing of “Draw the Circle Wide”, please follow the family outside to the parking lot, where there will be a farewell Guiding Ritual.**

This will be followed by a reception in the church hall, to which all are invited.

Hymn: CP 418: Draw the Circle Wide

(Refrain) Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone

Standing side by side,

Draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle

‘round whom all creation turns;

Nothing lost, but held forever,

In God’s gracious arms. (Refrain)

Let our hearts touch far horizons,

So encompass great and small;

Let our loving know no borders,

Faithful to God’s call. (Refrain)

Let the dreams we dream be larger,

Than we’ve ever dreamed before;

Let the dream of Christ be in us,

Open every door. (Refrain)

Guiding Ritual

Leaders: Brenda Jagdish and Judy Macquarie

On My Honour **(Chorus)**

**On my honour I will try;
There's a duty to be done, and I say, "aye."
There's a reason here for a reason above.
My honour is to try and my duty is to love.**

**No one needs to know my name,
If I hurt someone, then I'm to blame.
If I've helped someone, then I've helped me.
And that's the way that it should be. (Chorus)**

**I've tucked away a song or two;
If you're feeling low there's one for you.
If you need a friend, then I will come.
There's plenty more where I've come from. (Chorus)**

**Come with me where the fire burns bright,
We can even see better by its own light;
We can find meaning in a campfire glow
Than we've ever found in a year or so. (Chorus)**

**We've a promise to always keep,
And sing "Day is Done" before we sleep.
We're Girl Guides together, and when we're gone,
We'll still be a-trying and a-singing this song. (Chorus)**

Taps

**Thanks and praise for our days
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky.
As we go, this we know:
God is nigh.**

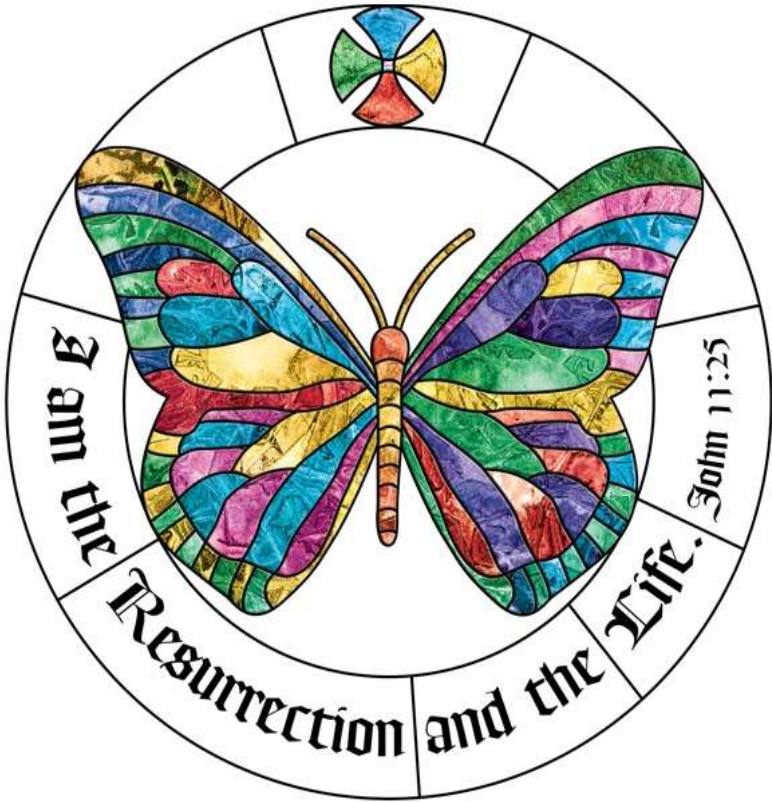
A Lament

In death there is still life
Even though our bodies have died and are decaying
If we have through God
Made one person's life more serene
Then our purpose on the planet
Has been fulfilled.

Through God's love in us and around us
All things can be made better
For those around us and within ourselves
Our love that God has given us has been shared.

It's that love that will remain
And flourish in the person or people
That our lives have touched
So in our death there is still life.

*~Written by Joan Jolson in 2011,
on the loss of a good friend.*



St. Luke Cedar Hill Anglican Church

3821 Cedar Hill Cross Rd., Victoria, BC V8P 2M6

Email: admin@stlukecedarhill.ca

Web: www.stlukesvictoria.ca

Phone: 250-477-6741

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*We acknowledge that we gather with respect on the traditional territories
of the Esquimalt, Songhees and WSÁNEĆ people,
the traditional custodians of these lands.
We are grateful for their hospitality.*