



Celebration of the Life of Donald G. Gray
January 11, 1930 - December 2, 2021

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Sayville, New York
Monday, December 13, 2021, at 11:00 A.M.

The Bell is Rung

Prelude “Ave Maria” Paul Elsener

Opening Prayer Rev. Ray Bagnuolo

Eternal God, our help in every time of trouble,
send your Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen us,
so we may have the hope of life eternal, trusting in your
goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Friend.

We join and pray together in this moment's mystery of life,
seeking your comfort, Gracious God. We ask for the deep
and abiding wisdom to know that our Loved One Don now
gathers with those we love who have gone before, all -
embraced in your abundant Love and Joy.

For these truths and more we are grateful as celebrate
Don's life with Alice; Kathleen, Paul and Kelly; Skip and
Maxine and all those who have shared in Don's time with
us, even as we deeply mourn his departure from us...
for this, too, is the way of our journey.

Hymn

Abide with Me

New Century Hymnal #99 vss. 1, 2, 4, 5

Abide with me; fast falls the even tide;
The earth's shadows deepen, Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need your presence every passing hour;
I need your grace to fill the tempter's power.
Give me your love my guide and stay to be.
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
I'll have no weight and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still if you abide with me.

Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Christ, abide with me.

First Reading Psalm 139:1-12

O God, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern
my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and
my lying down, and you are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue, O God, you know it
completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay
your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for
me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from
your presence? As I ascend to heaven, You are there. If I
were to take the wings of the morning and settle at the
farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand leads me,
and your right hand holds me fast.

There is no darkness in your love and presence. The night
is as bright as the day to you, it is as light to you.
It is the home to which I journey.

Hymn "Amazing Grace" New Century Hymnal #547

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.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved; How precious did that
grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I
have already come; 'Tis grace has brought me
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun, we have no less days
to sing God's praise than when we first began.

Jesus said to the disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In God’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 I 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’m going.”

Thomas said to him, Rabbi, 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.”

Jesus continues...

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom I will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Homily

Cast of Emmanuel 2019

“Somehow I missed the angels...”

Words and Music by Dorothy Davidson Hauscke

Somehow I missed the angels,
Somehow I always miss the angels,
In fact, I've never, ever seen any angels at all.
But if I heard an angel call me, I would know it.
And I would know exactly what I'd say.
I'd say, “Good morning, Angel.
Where are you going with your Good News today?”

Somehow I missed the angels,
Somehow I always miss the angels,
In fact, I've never, ever seen any angels at all.
But if I heard an angel call me, I would know,
I'd say, “Angel, in a way, I'm just like you:
You are sent with your good news.
And every day, I am sent too.”

Remembering Don

With Voices of Family and Friends

Hymn "I've Got Peace Like a River"

New Century Hymnal #478

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got
peace like a river, in my soul. I've got peace like a river, I've
got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've
got joy like a fountain, in my soul. I've got joy like a
fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a
fountain, in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, I've got a love like an ocean, I've
got a love like an ocean in my soul. I've got love like an
ocean, I got a love like an ocean, I got a love like an ocean
in my soul.

I've got faith like an anchor, I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor in my soul. I've got faith like an
anchor, I've got faith like an anchor, I got faith like an
anchor in my soul.

Benediction

Reading of the 23rd Psalm
The Inclusive Bible Version

God, you are my shepherd---
I want nothing more.
You lie me down in green meadows;
you lead me beside restful waters:
you refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures
for the sake of your Name.
Even if I am surrounded by the shadows of Death,
I fear no danger for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff—
they give me courage.
You spread a table for me
in the presence of those who oppose me,
and you anoint my head with oil—
my cup overflows!
Only goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in your house, God,
for days without end.

Postlude “Sail Away (Orinoco Flow)” by Enya

Lyrical Heart of the Song...

Sail away, sail away, sail away
Sail away, sail away, sail away
Sail away, sail away, sail away
Sail away, sail away, sail away

From Bissau to Palau, in the shade of Avalon
From Fiji to Tyree and the Isles of Ebony
From Peru to Cebu hear the power of Babylon
From Bali to Cali, far beneath the Coral Sea
Turn it up, turn it up, turn it up, up, adieu.
Sail away, sail away, sail away

From the North to the South, Ebudæ into Khartoum
From the deep sea of Clouds to the island of the moon
Carry me on the waves to the lands I've never been
Carry me on the waves to the lands I've never seen
We can sail, we can sail with the Orinoco Flow
We can sail, we can sail, we can sail.

We can steer, we can near
With Rob Dickins at the wheel
We can sigh, say goodbye Ross and his dependencies
We can sail, we can sail (Sail away, sail away, sail away)

We can reach, we can beach; On the shores of Tripoli
We can sail, we can sail
(Sail away, sail away, sail away)

From Bali to Cali, far beneath the Coral Sea
We can sail, we can sail (
Sail away, sail away, sail away)

From Bissau to Palau, in the shade of Avalon
We can sail, we can sail
(Sail away, sail away, sail away)

We can reach, we can beach
Far beyond the Yellow Sea
We can sail, we can sail
(Sail away, sail away, sail away)

From Peru to Cebu hear the power of Babylon
We can sail, we can sail (Sail away, sail away, sail away)



Don's Family thanks you for joining us today.
It is good and comforting to be together. And you are
invited to lunch following this morning's
"Celebration of Don's Life"
at Meadow Edge Restaurant
at West Sayville Golf Course.

200 Main Street, West Sayville, NY 11796
631-589-0022

Today's service will be available online following links from
the church's website at www.sayvilleucc.org

The Family asks that any donations
be made in Don's name to:
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
131 Middle Road, Sayville, NY 11782
631-589-1519; www.sayvilleucc.org