



A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION
Celebrating the Life of Brenda J. Bergen

November 14, 2020

GATHERING

Prelude

Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ

Opening Sentences and Words of Welcome

The Rev. Matthew Emery

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 121*

One: If I lift up my eyes to the hills, from whence shall my help come?

Many: **My help will come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

One: Would God let your foot stumble? Would God, your guardian, sleep?

Many: **The Holy One, the guardian of Israel, will neither slumber nor sleep.**

One: The Holy One will keep you from all evil, will guard your life.

Many: **The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth and forevermore.**

Hymn — “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

this bulletin, pg. 6

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

Many: **O God of grace and glory,**

we remember before you today our sister Brenda.

**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,
comfort us who mourn.**

Illumine our lives,

so that 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.**

Amen.

WORD

Words of Remembrance

*Members of Brenda's family
Friends*

Psalter — Psalm 23

spoken responsively

One: The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

Many: **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

One: You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Many: **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Many: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:28-31; 41:8-10

John 14:1-6^a, 25-27

Words of Witness: Sermon

Hymn — “In the Garden”

this bulletin, pg. 8

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession, *ending in* The Lord's Prayer

Many: **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SENDING

Commendation

One: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Brenda.
Acknowledge, we humbly pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a child of your own redeeming.

Many: **Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with all your saints,
where there is neither pain nor sorrow nor sighing, but life everlasting. Amen.**

One: All of us go down to the dust,

Many: **yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Hymn — “How Great Thou Art”

this bulletin, pg. 10, vss. 1, 2, & 4

Benediction

One: ... Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Postlude

Brenda Joan (Nichols) Bergen

Born: April 28, 1951

Born to Life Eternal: June 16, 2020

Brenda Joan (Nichols) Bergen, 69, of Storrs died Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Caribou, Maine, on April 28, 1951, Brenda was the daughter of Frank and Joan (Debow) Nichols. She married August 12, 1972, and had 3 children. Brenda moved from Maine to Connecticut in 1972 and lived in Storrs for the last 41 years of her life. She was a certified Montessori teacher and the director of Mt. Hope Montessori School in Mansfield. Brenda had a bachelors' degree in Art History and loved to teach art lessons in her home to children and adults. She also created many paintings, prints, and cards which were sold in local shops. Her paintings were also published in books. She was an active member of the Storrs Congregational Church. Brenda had a love for spirituality and meditation. She enjoyed teaching people how to meditate. Brenda leaves behind her beloved husband, Bruce Bergen; her loved children, Jennifer Bergen Teuber, Allison Bergen and partner Brian Strong, and Zachary Bergen and wife Christina Conant; her brother Rick Nichols, sister Rebecca Nichols, and sister Doreen Schumacher and husband Jared Schumacher; and many nephews, cousins, and close friends. Brenda loved being a Nana to her four grandchildren: Nicholas Teuber, Joshua Teuber, Addison Strong, and Ella Bergen. In addition to her parents, Brenda was preceded in death by her brother Phillip Nichols. She was loved by all who knew her.

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1 *Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther;
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest,
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth,

there is no shad-ow of turn-ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours-es a-bove
 thine own dear pres-ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang-est not; thy com-pas-sions they fail not.
 join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness
 strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row:

As thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 날 마 다 자 비 를 배 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 일 용 할 모 든 것 내 러 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

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In the Garden

1 I come to the gar - den a - lone, while the
2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so
3 I'd stay in the gar - den with him, though the

dew is still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing
sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy that he
night a-round me be fall - ing; But he bids me go; through the

on my ear, the Son of God dis - clos - es.
gave to me with - in my heart is ring - ing.
voice of woe his voice to me is call - ing.

rit.

C. Austin Miles wrote this hymn and its music to tell the story of Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus at the tomb, when she recognizes him and calls him "Rabboni" ("Teacher")

Text: C. Austin Miles, 1912
Music: C. Austin Miles, 1912

GARDEN
8.9.5.5.7 with refrain

a tempo

And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own,

rit. *a tempo*

And the joy we share as we tar - ry there, none oth - er has ev - er known.

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O Lord My God
How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

all the *worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then *I shall bow in

hear the *roll-ing thun-der, thy power through-out the
loft-y moun-tain gran-deur and hear the brook and
bur-den glad-ly bear-ing, he bled and died to
hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion, and there pro-claim, "My

**Author's original words are "works," "mighty," and "shall I bow."*

This tuneful retelling of the salvation story began in Swedish and was translated into German and then into Russian before reaching its English form. Despite such linguistic and musical revisions, it continues to be a meaningful source of comfort to many people.

TEXT: Stuart K. Hine, 1953; Spanish trans. Arturo W. Hottin Rives, alt.; Korean trans. anon.

MUSIC: Swedish folk melody; adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1949

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HOW GREAT THOU ART

11.10.11.10 with refrain

Refrain

u - ni - verse dis - played:
 feel the gen - tle breeze:
 take a - way my sin: Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to
 God, how great thou art!"

thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my

Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

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STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

***We share in God's love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.***

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