



Celebrating the Life of
Nikaya Mingala Snell

1995 – 2021

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Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 1 PM

First United Church, Waterloo, Ontario

~ WE ARE GATHERED BY GOD'S SPIRIT ~

The congregation is seated by ushers during the preservice music and slides presentation.

Procession of Family Swing Lo, Sweet Chariot

Kathleen King Martin

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Corinna Snell

Words of Welcome and Prayer

The Rev. Harry Disher

Hymn

Here I Am, Lord

Rebecca McKay

*1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send? [Refrain]
Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them,
Whom shall I send? [Refrain]*

~ WE REMEMBER OUR LOVED ONE ~

Let's remind ourselves that the dead reside not in the grave or an urn but in the hearts and minds of the living. The best of all answers to death is the whole-hearted and continuing affirmation of life.

Words of Remembrance

Kristin Snell

Sarah Thompson

Rachel Gordon

Kristina Kuhnert and Samantha Helm

~ WE RECALL WORDS OF SACRED WISDOM ~

Scripture

Wesley Snell

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

Romans 8

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.

Reflection Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God

The Rev. Rose Ann Vita

Hymn

Lean on Me

Rebecca McKay

*Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow
Lean on me
When you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on...
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on
Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill
Those of your needs that you won't let show
You just call on me brother when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on
Lean on me
When you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on...*

~ WE RETURN TO THE WORLD LOVED BY GOD ~

Commendation

The Rev. Rose Ann Vita

Into your hands, dear God of all mercies, we commend Nikaya in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, she is with God now, held in the everlasting embrace of God's Love.

To you, dear God, we commend Nikaya your servant; in the sight of this world is now dead; in your sight Nikaya lives for ever. Forgive whatever sins Nikaya has committed through human weakness and in your goodness grant everlasting peace and harmony, through the Christ that overcomes death through your unending love. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Rev. Rose Ann Vita

We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon Nikaya in this life: they are signs to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with all the saints in Christ.

We give thanks that our God is the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you also share in God's consolation. Thanks be to God. [2 Corinthians 1:3-7]

It is recorded that God proclaimed, "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you." [Isaiah 66:13]

And so we pray, to a mother who tends lovingly to and comforts her child and as . . .

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 those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Hymn

On Eagles' Wings

Rebecca McKay

1. *You who dwell in the shelter of our God
Who abide in this shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!" [Refrain]
And I 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 my hand*
2. *The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under God's wings your refuge, God's faithfulness your shield
[Refrain]*
3. *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]*
4. *For to God's angels is 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 [Refrain]*

May the love of God, the message of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit bless and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes.

May the peace of the triune God, which is beyond all understanding, keep our hearts and minds abiding in the solace of knowing "*We are not alone, we live in God's world, and God lives in our world.*"

And may the blessing of God, known to us in many and various way, particularly as the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit (+) be with and within you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Recession of the Family*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness***Rebecca McKay**

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

1. You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing;
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” **[Refrain]**

2. You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.
[Refrain]

3. You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.
[Refrain]

4. You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise **[Refrain].**

Postlude**Kathleen King Martin**

The congregation leaves as directed by the ushers.

The family thanks all those who have shown their support and comfort throughout Nikaya's life, but most especially these past and upcoming weeks. Special thanks to today's pall bearers: Greg Case, Eugene Ho, Pierre-Luc Losier, Tara Snell, Ted Snell, and Wesley Snell

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