

In Memory of
Tony Lili Galea
Friday June 10, 2022
Trinity United Church
Port Coquitlam
David Cathcart Presiding

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Before the Service:

God of all compassion, we bring to you our sorrow
and distress, and pray that you will give us the
strength and courage to bear it.

As we celebrate the life that was Tony Galea, fill our
minds with precious memories, our hearts with
peace and our souls with the comfort of your Spirit.
Give us the grace to say goodbye in the certain hope
of joy in your loving embrace. Amen.

Processional:

Scripture Sentences:

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

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should
change, though the mountains shake in the heart of
the sea. (Psalm 46:1-2)

The peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

I am Rev David Cathcart, I'm the minister here at Trinity United Church, and I will be presiding as we celebrate the life and grieve the loss of Tony Galea. We ask that you remain masked when we are singing in particular, certainly adjust your mask if you need to wipe your nose or fix your face, but we would prefer if you generally leave them on. Welcome to those who are watching from overseas.

I invite you to take a deep breath...

[light the Christ Candle]

Greetings:

Friends, we gather here in the protective shelter of God's healing love, to give thanks for the life of Tony Galea, and to offer our support and encouragement to those who grieve his death. We gather to hear God's word of hope that sustains us in trouble, and leads us to give praise to God. And we gather to commend to God the life of Tony, for in life and in death we belong to Christ who is Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Prayer of Approach:

Let us pray:

O God, Creator of life, help us to accept death as a part of life, trusting in your goodness and great love for every one of us.

We feel now the pain of parting with a loved one, but
we rejoice that we were privileged to experience
life with him

We entrust Tony to you in death as in life you
entrusted him to us.

We pray with sincerity and hope. Amen.

Hymn: “Shall We Gather at the River”

VU 710

About Tony Galea: Joy Galea (wife)

Memorial Slides:

Prayer of Reconciliation:

Remembering that we are not always the people God
made us to be, let us bow our heads in a spirit of
reconciliation:

God of the living and the dead, we are burdened by
the things we have done and by the things we have
not done, the things we have said and the things
we have not said.

We remember our broken promises and missed
opportunities; the gifts we have taken for granted,
the love we have not shown or returned.

We regret the love we have failed to receive and the
resentment that we have held in our hearts.

Forgive us, comfort us and heal us. Lift our guilt from
us that we may walk in freedom and grace. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Friends, the hope of the resurrection is that God loves us, Christ walks with us in the Way, and the breath of the Spirit gives us new life. Be at peace for we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Hymn: Psalm 23 (sung)

VU 48

Readings:

Luke 11:5-13

5 And he said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.” ⁷And he answers from within, “Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.” ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

9 ‘So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give

good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

This is the witness of the early church. **Thanks be to God!**

Message:

Holy One, as we reflect on your word,
may we hear your love,
may we receive your love,
may we speak your love,
may we be empowered to share you love.
In the name of the one
who gave all for all, we pray. Amen.

As I was reading the passage from Luke that Joy chose for us to read today, I was struck by just how many times we hear the word "friend." It is Luke's Jesus' intention that we understand God, or our Heavenly Father to use Luke's language, is a friend to us. A friend who wants nothing more than to give us what we need.

God wants nothing more than for us to receive God's steadfast, enduring love.

Ask, it is yours; seek, you will find it; knock, the door of God's heart will open.

We don't always want what's best for us, indeed, we often don't even know what is best for us. The world being the world, and us being us, We get caught up in competition for what we convince our selves is scarce, even though it isn't, and ego responds with fear, pride, and no small amount of stubbornness. We tend to be willful, and arrogant and sometimes short sighted and downright ignorant. And so we don't ask, we don't seek, we don't knock... and we fail to receive.

As human beings, for the most part, we receive God's love through companionship with other people, sometimes pets, but mostly through human companionship.

Some of us are fortunate enough to receive God's love through families of origin. Not all of us. But some do. So congratulations to those who receive God's love through their biological families. You are blessed.

Our culture privileges marital companionship. And if you have been fortunate enough to experience God's love through marriage, Congratulations, because once again, you are blessed.

I think our culture overlooks and takes for granted the importance of companionship in our chosen communities, our circle of friends, our churches,

especially when those communities stretch over generations. Congratulations to those who receive God's love through their chosen communities of sisters/brother/friends – you are blessed.

Joy, you are not alone – you are surrounded by people who love you so much. My hope and prayer is that you continue to receive that love.

Our culture, thanks to Hollywood, confounds love and happiness. There are in fact depths of love that can't be experienced or known until we have also felt loss and pain.

It is not the case that God sends us loss and pain *so that* we will learn the depth of love.

Rather, pain and loss are a part of a love that is so much greater than the pain and loss.

Love is the beginning.

Love is the end.

Pain and loss are experiences along the way.

God's love will not let us go.

Tony is now beyond pain and loss. He is resting in the deep love of God. That deep love holds us now. That

deep love awaits for us. That deep love prepares our way. That deep love accompanies us on the way.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

God of grace and glory, we thank you for Tony Galea who was near and dear to those gathered here, and who now has died.

We thank you for the friendship he gave and for the strength and peace he brought.

We thank you for the love he offered and received while he was with us here.

We pray that nothing good in the life of Tony will be lost, but will be of benefit to the world; that all that was important to him will be respected by those who follow, and that everything he valued will continue to mean much to us now that he has died.

We ask you that he may live on in the hearts and minds of his family and friends, inspiring courage, informing conscience.

We ask you that we who were close to him may now, because of this death, be even closer to one another, and that in peace and friendship here on earth, we may always be deeply conscious of your promise to be faithful to us in death.

We pray for his wife, Joy, that she may know comfort and peace.

We pray for ourselves, who are tested by this death,
that we do not try to minimize the loss, or seek
refuge from it in words alone, nor brood over it so
that it overwhelm us and isolates us from others.
God of grace and glory, grant us courage and
confidence. Amen.

Disciples' Prayer:

Hymn: "These Hearts that We Have Treasured" VU 494

Announcements:

Commendation:

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend
your servant Tony Galea.

Acknowledge, we humbly pray, a sheep of your own
fold, a lamb of your own flock, and a child of your
own redeeming.

Receive Tony into the arms of your mercy, into the
blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the
glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.

Benediction:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,
May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, this
night and always. Amen.

Recessional: