

In Memory of
Gladys Irene (Smyth) Noort
Saturday, February 25, 2023
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 Gladys Noort, 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: “Joyful, Joyful”

VU 232

Scripture Sentences:

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those
who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will
never die.” (John 11:25)

Greetings:

Friends, we gather here in the protective shelter of God's healing love, to give thanks for the life of Gladys Noort, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, sister and friend, and to offer our support and encouragement to those who grieve her 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 Gladys, 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 Gladys.

We entrust Gladys to you in death as in life you entrusted her to us.

We pray with sincerity and hope. Amen.

Hymn: "Morning Has Broken"

VU 409

About Gladys Noort:

Her great granddaughter Cally doesn't have a ton of memories with her, but she does remember one time

probably about five years ago when they took Gladys out for lunch and to run some errands and the last stop was the grocery store to get her more to drink and some toilet paper. She remembers almost immediately after they entered the store Gladys was on a mission to take her to the back to get bulk cookies she absolutely had to have. Gladys took one of the cellophane bags and stuffed it as full as she could with these cookies. She was so distracted by them she forgot the toilet paper and had to stop and get it somewhere else. Cally's favourite part of the day was when they got back and discovered she had just about as many cookies as she had bought just sitting in her cupboard.

Tom Noort,
Marilyn Noort,
Trudy Noort,

Prayer of Confession:

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

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!

Readings:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

³For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Psalm 23 (sung)

VU 747

Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵ ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Message:

May the words of my mouth
And the meditations of our hearts
Be acceptable to you, O God,
Our Rock and our Redeemer.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Matthew 25 is a familiar passage that assures us that God provides us with what we need and that we need not worry. But honestly, if Jesus doesn't want us to worry, why does he give us so much to worry about:

Today we have a late blizzard coming to
Vancouver, BC;

We just emerged from 2 plus years of pandemic
Summers filled with climate fires and heat domes
Soaring fuel and food prices

The housing crisis

A toxic drug crisis

And more ordinary stuff:

Growing old?

Getting sick and infirmed

Losing someone we love

Being alone

There are so many things to worry about and these are not illegitimate worries. These things are important and real. They really impact the quality and length of our lives.

Jesus gives us context. He teaches that the Kingdom of God is bigger than us or what we are experiencing at any given moment. The story of Jesus reminds us that the story we are part of goes from the very beginning of creation to the very end and contains absolutely everything in between. And what's more, the story goes through persecution, suffering and death; but it doesn't end there. The story goes beyond sorrow and grief and ends in resurrection, rejoicing and new life.

The story of Jesus, the story of which we are a part, begins in promise and ends in the fulfillment of that promise. There will be rejoicing.

Jesus isn't saying, "Don't worry because it isn't important." He's saying, "Don't worry because the story doesn't end here. There is more to come."

Our life stories include season of pain and suffering, but the promise Jesus brings is that our stories end in seasons of joy and celebration. If what we are experiencing now is suffering and grief, it is because

we haven't come yet to the end of our part in the great story.

When it seems that the pain, loneliness and grief are too great to bear anymore, when it feels like oppression and sorrow are overwhelming us, may we remember that greater story told by Scripture and Jesus, of which we are a part, that includes a promise of goodness from beginning to end and that concludes in resurrection and reconciliation, rejoicing and new life.

Gladys is beyond pain, or suffering, beyond loneliness, frustration or doubt. She rests in the embrace of a God who loves her deeply, and the community of saints, souls and angels whom she loves. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Give to Us Laughter"

VU 624

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for all the blessings, of life, for watching over us in death and for all the ways in which we come to know your love.

We thank you for those who share our lives: for families and loved ones; for caregivers and companions; for friends and neighbours.

Especially today, we thank you for Gladys Noort:
mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt,
mentor and friend.

We praise you for the gifts of her life: We are so grateful for the love she shared with her husband Willem, and for the family they raised together; for the open, “Come on in,” welcome of the home they made together; for her deep commitment and activity with Trinity United Church and her love for her sisters of the Rachael UCW Unit; for her love of music and crafts; for all that lives on through those who knew and loved her.

We thank you that for Gladys death is past, pain is ended, and she has entered into the joy of your presence.

Comforting and caring God, we pray for the family and friends of Gladys and for all who grieve this loss.

We pray for her children: Tom and Sue, Carol and Randy, Trudy, Marilyn and David, David and Sara; we pray for her grandchildren: Niki, Tammie, Jaimie, Jennessa, Lindsey, Jillian, Derek, Danica, Colin, Kayla, Lauren, Emily, and Eila; and we pray for her great grandchildren: Matthew, Cally, Austin, and Parker.

May they know the comfort of your love, through the support of others and the peace of your presence. And guide us all as we seek to offer support and care, healing and hope to those who feel this loss.

Strong and tender God, in Jesus, you share the joy and sorrow of this life, and so we pray also today for all others who know suffering and pain.

Grant us all a vision of your purpose in our life and work together, that we may bear witness to the hope which is in Jesus Christ, in life, in death, and in life beyond death. Amen.

Disciples' Prayer:

Announcements:

- The family would like to thank everyone who has come today to celebrate Gladys's life
- You are welcome to join them following the service in the fellowship for lunch and a time to visit and remember
- There will be a slide presentation in the hall, so when the lights go down, we would ask you to become quiet and give your attention to the screen. It is about a 10-minute slideshow
Curated by Gladys's daughter Trudy

Commendation:

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant Gladys Noort.

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

Receive her 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, and the blessing of God, our Creator, Christ, our Saviour, and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, be with you always. Amen.

Recessional: “We Shall Go Out”

VU 586