



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

CLOVERDALE  
UNITED CHURCH



**A Service of Witness to the Resurrection**  
*celebrating the life of Thelma Valerie Smidt*

16 August 2025 • 11:00 AM

**W**elcome to Cloverdale United Church! As we say at nearly every worship service, “No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey God welcomes you... and so do we.” We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God’s kingdom. We don’t all look or act alike; God knows we don’t all think alike. We don’t all read the Bible the same way. We come from different religious backgrounds, we bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we gather and worship God together as one.

We know that gathering in the midst of the death of a loved one can be among the most challenging of moments any of us face in the journey of life. We hope that in our words and actions together as we worship this day, not only will your mind and heart feel free to express the sorrow, grief, and other emotions they carry, but that your spirit will be lifted up in gratitude and even joy as we celebrate the life of a beloved child of God. Moreover, we hope that by what we do together today, you will hear and experience something of the gracious embrace of God and the good news of our ultimate hope in God’s victory over death and promise of new life. After all, as the Christian church it is our purpose and privilege in these moments to witness to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, to celebrate and give thanks for the gift of life and for the gift of life eternal, and to comfort all who mourn with the assurance that *nothing* in all creation, not even death itself, can ever separate us from the love of God.

**Many thanks to today’s ...**


***service host:*** Judy Cook

***reception hosts:*** CUC volunteers

***digital ushers:*** Glenys McFarlane & Doug Sowerby

***accompanist:*** Tim Bailey

***and members of the Cloverdale United Church choir***

 **Washrooms** can be found just outside the sanctuary through the door at the front right of the space (the northeast corner of the room).

 Thank you for **silencing cell phones** and other devices, and for refraining from flash photography.

## Thelma Valerie Smidt (*née* Dunster)

Born: 14 February 1940

Born to Life Eternal: 1 July 2025

### GATHERING

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#### Prelude

#### Opening Sentences and Words of Welcome

*The Rev. Matthew Emery*

#### Call to Worship — Psalm 23

*One:* The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

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

*One:* You restore my soul and lead me in right paths for your name's sake.

**Many:** Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I 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; my cup overflows.

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

#### \* Hymn — “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

*Voices United #339*

#### \* Prayer of the Day

**Many:** O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister Thelma. 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

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#### Words of Remembrance

*Carolyn Goor & Jennifer Smidt  
Brenda Norris*

#### A Photographic Tribute

## Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19

Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-16; 12:1-2

*pew bibles, OT p.672*

*pew bibles, NT p. 225*

## Words of Witness: The Sermon

*The Rev. Matthew Emery*

## 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 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, forever and ever. Amen.

## SENDING

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### Anthem — “Go in the Grace of the Lord” by James Barnard

*The Choir*

Go in the grace of the Lord. Walk in the way of His Word.

Stand in the strength of His promises, and believe in your heart they are true.

Sit at the feet of the Savior. Pray in the power of the Spirit.

Rise and run the race with patience, and go in the grace of the Lord.

Go in hope, God's hope. Go in peace, God's peace.

Go in joy, everlasting joy as you live in the fullness of His love.

Go in the grace of the Lord.

### \* Commendation

**One:** Into your hands, O merciful Saviour,  
we commend your servant Thelma.

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”

*Voices United #238 – vv. 1, 2, 4*

### \* Benediction

**One:** ... Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

### \* Postlude

*All are invited to join in a reception following the service in Heritage Hall.  
In lieu of flowers or other gifts, memorial contributions are welcomed to  
the BC Cancer Foundation.*









## ***She is Gone***

You can shed tears that she is gone  
Or you can smile because she has lived

You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left

Your heart can be empty because you can't see her  
Or you can be full of the love that you shared

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday

You can remember her and only that she is gone  
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back  
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on

—from “Remember Me” by David Harkins, 1982

***We are a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community, reaching out from the historic heart of Surrey at Cloverdale since 1875. We seek to thrive in faith through relationship with God, one another, and the community.... to serve others as Jesus would.***

*Cloverdale United Church recognizes that we worship, live, work, and play in traditional and unceded territories of Coast Salish peoples: primarily the Katzie, the Kwantlen, the Semiahmoo, the Snokomish, the Stolo, the Tsawwassen, and the Wsanec. We give our thanks to them and for them; we offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred in this land. We seek to live with respect in this piece of Creation; we seek peace and justice among all who have called this land home.*

### **CLOVERDALE UNITED CHURCH**

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