

In Memoriam
William Craven Blackburn
(November 16, 1934 – June 2, 2026)



Memorial Service and Celebration of Life
Monday, June 15, 2026
11 a.m.

*Officiants: The Rev. Daniel Fournier and
The Rev. Joan Scandrett
Organ and Piano: Alan Whitmore*

Order of Service

Scripture Sentences *(Please stand)*

I am the resurrection and I am life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me will live, even if they die. And everyone who has life, and is committed to me in faith, shall not die for ever.

(John 11: 25-26)

Let not your hearts be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

(John 14: 1-3)

The steadfast love of God never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

(Lamentations 3: 22-23)

Candle Lighting

Kenneth Blackburn Wild will light the candle on the memorial table.

Words of Welcome: The Rev. Daniel Fournier

(Please be seated)

Opening Prayer

Holy God, creator of all,
we praise your name
for all who have finished this life,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them,
and the peace in which they rest.
We praise you today for your servant Bill
and for all that you did through him.
Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Saviour, Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: Morning Has Broken (please stand)

***Morning has broken like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!***

***Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven;
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.***

***Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!***

Remembering Bill

Eulogies given by Susan Blackburn, Michael Blackburn and Chloe Blackburn.

Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful

(Please stand)

***(Refrain) All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.***

***Each little flower that opens, each vibrant bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours, God made their lively wings.
(Refrain)***

***The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruit in the garden, God made them every one.
(Refrain)***

***The rocky mountain splendour, the loon's wild, haunting call,
The great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the fall.
(Refrain)***

**God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is the Creator, who has made all things well.
(Refrain)**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40: 28-31 (Read by Allison Pang)

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be
weary,
and the young will fall exhausted, but those who wait for
the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm: 103 (NIV)

Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

**Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the
pit and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.

**He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.**

He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our

sins deserve

or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

The life of mortals is like grass,

they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

But from everlasting to everlasting

**the LORD's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children— with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.**

The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.

**Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word. Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.**

Praise the LORD, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

Epistle: Philippians 4: 8-9 (Read by Dr. Kenneth Kunz)

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about^[d] these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.**

**Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.**

**He speaks, and, listening to his voice new life the dead receive;
The mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.**

**Hear him, ye deaf, ye voiceless ones,
your loosened tongues employ
ye blind, behold your Saviour come, and leap, ye lame for joy!**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honours of thy name.**

Gospel Reading: John 11: 17-44 (Read by Cynthia Blackburn)

May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When Mary, the sister of Lazarus, came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone.

And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection: *The Rev. Daniel Fournier (Please be seated)*

Anthem: I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

The Prayers *(Please be seated)*

Let us pray...

God of all, we thank you for Bill, and for all by which he is remembered: for all that he was to those who loved him, for the gifts and talents he freely gave, and for all in his life that reflected love, caring, and compassion. We celebrate his intellect, inquisitiveness, patience, and his gift of humour. We pray that what was good in his life will not be lost but will continue to be of benefit to the world; that all that was important to him will be respected by those who follow; and that everything in which he was great will continue to mean much to us. We pray that those who were close to him may now be even closer to one another, and that we all may live in peace and friendship on earth, ever conscious of your promise to be faithful to us in death. May God grant us courage and hope in the time ahead. All this we pray in the name of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

God, whose love holds in its embrace
your children in this world and the next;
Look with compassion on all who mourn.
Unite us to you, that in our oneness with you,
we may always be united to our loved ones.

Give us the courage to entrust Bill to you in death,
as in life you entrusted him to us.
Give us hope and peace through him who died,
and was buried and rose again for us,
Christ Jesus, our Saviour. **Amen.**

God of all comfort, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Hymn: The Lord's My Shepherd *(Please stand)*

***The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want:
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green;
He leadeth me the quiet waters by.***

***My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
Even for his own name's sake.***

***Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me,
And thy rod and staff me comfort still.***

***My table thou hast furnish-ed
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.***

***Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house for ever more,
My dwelling place shall be.***

The Commendation (please remain standing)

Before we go our separate ways,
Let us take leave of our brother.
May our farewell express our affection for him;
May it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope.
One day we shall joyfully greet him again
When the love of Christ, which conquers all things,
Destroys even death itself.

And so we pray:

Into your merciful care, Loving God,
we commend our loved one, William Craven Blackburn,
in the sure and certain hope
that, together with all who have died in Christ
he will rise with him on the last day.
Receive him into the arms of your mercy,
Into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
And into the glorious company of the saints in light.
Amen.

**Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Here follows a time of silence.

Rest eternal grant to him, O God.
And let light perpetual shine upon him.
May his soul, and the souls of all the departed,
by the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

The Blessing

May God give you
comfort and his peace,
light and his joy,
in this world and the next;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Closing Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

(Tune: Dix)

***For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.***

***(Refrain): Christ our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.***

***For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light.***

(Refrain)

***For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight.***

(Refrain)

***For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild.***

(Refrain)

***For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven.***

(Refrain)

Following this service, the family invites you to join them in the church hall (across the parking lot) for a time of fellowship and refreshments. Park on Synod Road for easy access via the side door of the hall.

Flowers are gratefully declined. In lieu of flowers, for those who wish, donations to “Hope for Dementia” in Bill’s memory would be gratefully received by the family.



In Memory of William Blackburn
Donations to Hope for Dementia