THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
CLOVERDALE UNITED CHURCH



A Service of Witness to the Resurrection

celebrating the life of Robert Charles "Bob" Taylor

25 November 2026 • 12:00 PM

Welcome 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.

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.

Many thanks to …

service host: Jamie Brown;
digital ushers (livestreaming): Daniel Ariss, Lily Lee;
worship accompanist: Tim Bailey, director of music ministries;
***members of* the Cloverdale United Church Choir**;
***members of* The Silvertones**; *and*
volunteers helping host the post-service reception, under the leadership of the Cloverdale United Church Women unit.

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Sentences and Words of Welcome *The Rev. Matthew Emery*

Call to Worship — Psalm 23 *Pastor Youngsun Cheon*

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** — "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" *Voices United* **#659**

*** Prayer of the Day**

Many: **O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother Robert. We thank you for giving him 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

Anthem — "Soon and Very Soon" *The Silvertones*

Words of Remembrance *Amy Vitkay, granddaughter*

Reading — "And it's winter before we know it..." *read by Katy Marko, granddaughter*

Words of Remembrance *Derek Williams, friend*
John Allan, coworker
Larry Richardson, friend

Anthem — "Fairest Lord Jesus" *Cloverdale United Church Choir*

Words of Remembrance *Sandra Gore, daughter*

Scripture Readings
Mark 4:35-41 *pew bibles* NT p. 39
Revelation 7:9-17 *pew bibles* NT p. 249

Words of Witness: The Sermon

Anthem — "Amazing Grace" *The Silvertones*

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession, *ending with* 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

*** Commendation**

One: Into your hands, O merciful Saviour,
we commend your servant Robert.
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** — "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" *Voices United* **#651**

*** 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 the Heritage Hall.

Robert Charles "Bob" Taylor

Born: 2 February 1933
Born to Life Eternal: 4 November 2026

Robert (Bob) was born on the Isle of Wight, England. His first few years were very successful as he won first prize in the Women's Institute "Beautiful Baby" Contest three years in a row! These were golden years compared to the following years when he and his family had to spend much of their time in cramped underground shelters that served as bomb shelters during the Second World War. During these years, Bob attended a church-run school where he developed a strong singing voice and found a lifelong love of singing.

At the age of 14, Bob left school to start an apprenticeship with a local bus company to help to support his parents, brother and sisters. By the age of 17 he had joined the Royal Air Force. He completed his heavy-duty mechanical apprenticeship and learned many other skills as well from RAF bases in England and Germany.

In 1955 he went home to the Isle of Wight and took a job as a coach tour driver where he met May in the summer of 1956. They were married in October 1956 and lived in the south of England where they worked to save enough money to pay for one-way tickets to Canada. They arrived in Halifax on February 1, 1958, with 3 suitcases, $80 cash, and the name of a family-friend who lived in Ottawa that would be willing to help them get settled in their new country.

After a year in Ottawa, they moved to Elliot Lake, Ontario, and bought a mobile home. Bob got a job working on mining equipment in mine shafts, one mile underground. He became the union representative for the workers and was also the leader of the social committee. This was an interesting experience, living in such a small, isolated





community, with extreme weather conditions. As the mine was threatening to close in 1963, they packed up the mobile home and moved south to London, Ontario, where they opened a Sunoco Service Station with full car repair garage.

After five years of long working days, Bob and May decided to take life a little easier, so they could spend more time with their growing family. Bob was hired on at a huge manufacturing plant run by GM of Canada in London, Ontario. They manufactured diesel locomotives, buses, and heavy-duty diesel equipment. Bob started working on earth moving vehicles and was picked to be the lead mechanic, building the biggest mining truck they had ever built. When that was finished and was run off the production line with lots of fanfare, Bob became foreman on one of the other lines. While Bob was working for GM, he bought a 20-foot Cygnus sailboat, and they spent every weekend all summer sailing on local lakes.

In 1974, Bob was offered the job of service manager for Western Canada. So again, everything, including the sailboat, was packed into a huge moving van, and the family moved to Cloverdale. In this job he travelled to all parts of Western Canada, three weeks out of four, sometimes flying and sometimes driving. He also had many trips to different points in US for trainings and conferences. He saw quite a lot of this end of the world. Bob continued working for GM until they left the heavy-duty equipment industry in 1984. He worked for Ferguson Supply in Langley for a short time before finding a position with Mack Trucks as the Regional Service Manager for Western Canada. He retired from Mack Trucks in 1998.

Bob soon learned his Cygnus was a little too small for adventures on the open ocean on the BC coast. So, he traded it for a slightly bigger 24-foot Shark sailboat. But even that wasn't big enough for longer trips. In 1980 he bought a fiberglass hull and deck for a 24-foot Mirage sailboat which was then parked in the driveway at the family home while he learned the woodworking skills needed to build the boat. Once Bob retired from Mack Trucks, he was able to focus his efforts on the boat. He was a perfectionist and often ended up ripping out work he had

just completed because he wasn't satisfied with his results. His determination and beautiful craftsmanship brought his dream to reality and "Macushla" was launched from the Shelter Island Marina in August 2015. Bob was able to enjoy a few days out on his boat, but his medical condition made it impossible to sail so he made the difficult decision to sell Macushla to a young man from Seattle who loved the woodwork.



In retirement Bob found not only that he had time to build his boat—but he also had time to return to his love of singing. He joined a community choir and soon took over the position of leader of the group. He ignored the fact that he couldn't play an instrument or read music and instead focused on bringing joy to people by taking his group to many seniors' homes and performing at local community events. He wanted to see smiles from both his group and his audiences.

In 2017, Bob had open-heart surgery that ultimately gave him another nine years to sing and enjoy his life. The family gives thanks to the Cardiology team at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver for all they did to give Bob these extra years. The last year has brought challenges that were tended to by the staff at Langley Memorial Hospital and then Magnolia Gardens Care Center. He celebrated his 70th Wedding Anniversary with May on October 6, 2026. They enjoyed a lovely sunny afternoon party with a few friends and his extended family around him.

Bob passed away peacefully in his sleep on November 4, 2026. The family gives thanks to the care and attention provided to him by the staff at Magnolia Gardens Care Center in Langley. He will be missed by his wife May, 4 children, 9 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren, as well as a lifetime of friends.

In lieu of a time of open sharing during the service,
the family joyfully invites your sharing in stories and remembrances
at the reception.



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

17575 58A Ave., Surrey, BC V3S 1N1 | 604.574.5813 | cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca

Ministers	All of the Congregation
Lead Minister	Rev. Matthew Emery – matt@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
Associate Minister	Youngsun Cheon – youngsun@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
Director of Music Ministries	Tim Bailey – tim@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
Office Administrator	Lily Lee – office@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
Intercultural Ministry Coordinator	Jakyung Kim – jakyung@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
Children & Youth Ministries Leader	Ross Shearer – ross@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
Church Council Chair	Daniel Ariss – arissd135@gmail.com