

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Shelley Ann Westby



January 13, 1946 - September 17, 2021

October 24, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Elim Lutheran Church
Petaluma, California

Welcome

The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson

Opening Song "Borning Cry"

Verse 1

"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

Verse 2

"When you heard the wonder of the
Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living
Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

Verse 3

"In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through
the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."

Verse 4

"I was there to hear your borning
cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were
baptized
to see your life unfold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.
O God of grace and glory,
we remember before you today our sister Shelley .
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, console us who mourn.
Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up
in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ,
so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your
call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company
of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord.

All: Amen.

Readings

Poem

Joëlle Harris

The Grandmother Cycle

nothing she did
or said
was quite
what she meant
but still her life
could be called a monument
shaped in a slant
of available light
and set to the movement
of possible music

By Judith Downing

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff —
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Romans 8: 31 - 35, 37 - 39

Keenan Horne

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Music "How Can I Keep From Singing"

Cathe Kiler

Gospel

Matthew 18:1-5

The Rev. Dr. Clay Schmit

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²He called a child, whom he put among them, ³and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Clay Schmit

Song "On Eagles Wings"

Choir

Verse 1

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Verse 2

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge,
with faithfulness your shield.

Refrain

Verse 3

You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.

Refrain

Verse 4

For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Final refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand;
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957

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Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Pastor: Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Sung by The Rev. Dr. Clay Schmit, Accompanied by Marilyn Lee,
Signed by Kyrie Schmit

Commendation

Pastor: Let us commend Shelley to the mercy of God, our maker
and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your
servant Shelley.

Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your
own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner 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.

All: Amen.

Song "Circle of Life"

Choir

In the seed hides the seedling.
In the seedling hides the tree.
In the holy tree hide all the seeds
of the forests yet to be.

Gift of food, gift of shelter,
Blessed presence on the earth,
She will lay her broken boy down
To bring new seeds to birth.

Drops of rain feed the lifspring
And the lifspring feeds the stream.
Tiny streams to mighty river
To the oceans endless dream.

From the seas rise the showers
Raining down upon the earth.
And the earth will spring up singing
songs
Of water and rebirth.

One great circle of life, living circle
of love
Plants and trees, seas and rivers and
the
Blessed sky above
Creatures great, creatures small,
One the web that weaves us all
In the circle of life.

One great circle of life, living circle of
love
Plants and trees, seas and rivers and
the
Blessed sky above

Creatures great, creatures small,
One the web that weaves us all
In the circle of life.

With the whale and the eagle,
With the turtle and the deer,
With the forest and the prairie
And the waters fresh and clear,

In a great living circle
That embraces all the earth
We are moving in a holy dance
of life and death and birth.

One great circle of life, living circle of
love
Plants and trees, seas and rivers and
the
Blessed sky above

Creatures great, creatures small,
One the web that weaves us all
In the circle of life.

One great circle of life, living circle of
love
Plants and trees, seas and rivers and
the
Blessed sky above

Creatures great, creatures small,
One the web that weaves us all
In the circle of life.

In the circle of life
In the circle of life
In the circle of life

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Sending

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace,
All: in the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude “Amazing Grace”

Jake Schmit

Reception

You are invited to a reception by the members of
Elim Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall.

Acknowledgements

Presided by:

The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson
The Rev. Clay Schmit

Musicians

Cathe Kiler
Marilyn Lee
Mark Norman
Jake Schmit

Choir

Athena Labberton
Audrey Norman
Mark Norman
John Sedlander

Soloist

Hadley Deardorff

Signing

Kyrie Schmit

Readers

Joëlle Harris
Keenan Horne

Remembrance

Brede Westby

Shelley Ann Westby

On September 17, 2021, Shelley passed peacefully at her home surrounded by her loving family and friends. Born in Fremont, Michigan on January 13, 1946, to Evelyn Davis McCormick and John D. McCormick, Shelley grew up the elder sister to her brother, Michael. Some of her favorite activities during high school days included all types of dancing, singing with the girls sextette, and leading the high school band down Main Street as their drum majorette. As a student at the University of Michigan, Shelley earned a double major, dance, and special education. She taught several years in Maryland but never stopped dancing! She moved to Petaluma in 1981 where she quickly made friends who then became family, a pattern that would be repeated throughout her life. Shelley is respected and remembered for her work as an educator and program director at Old Adobe Developmental Services (OADS). An advocate for those often overlooked, Shelley helped many clients attain skills that improved their lives and increased their independent living skills. A member of Elim Lutheran Church, Shelley brought others to their faith by the example she set. Serving as a reader at church and sharing her gift of sign language brought her special joy. She was preceded in death by her father, John, mother, Evelyn, uncle, Jim, aunt, Maxine, cousin, Christie, nephew, Ryoji, and stepson, Eric. She is survived by her husband, Brede, brother, Michael McCormick (Yumiko), stepdaughter, Valorie Horne (Ron), grandsons Skylar, Keenan, and Landon Horne and nephews Ryobun and Ryoma McCormick. She also is survived by her special miracle goddaughter, Nam Sun Sin, her godchildren, Kyrie and Jacob Schmit and countless friends who are part of her family.

“These many beautiful days cannot be lived again; but they are compounded in my flesh and spirit and I take them in full measure toward whatever lies ahead.”

D. Berrigan SJ