



**A Memorial Service of Life, Death and Resurrection
for Keith Sodergren
September 29th, 1942 – December 8th, 2021**

**May 21, 2022
2:00 pm**

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ENTRANCE

GATHERING MUSIC

Go Rest High on that Mountain

By: Vince Gill

GATHERING WORDS

Dying, Christ destroyed our death.

Rising, Christ restored our life.

Christ will come again in glory.

As in baptism Keith put on Christ,

so in Christ may Keith be clothed with glory.

Here and now, dear friends, we are God's children.

What we shall be has not yet been revealed;

but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him,

for we shall see him as he is.

Those who have this hope purify themselves

as Christ is pure.

THE WORD OF GRACE

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live,

and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

I died, and behold I am alive for evermore,

and I hold the keys of hell and death.

Because I live, you shall live also.

GREETING

Friends, we have gathered here to praise God

and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the life of Keith.

We come together in grief, acknowledging our human loss.

May God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort,

in sorrow hope, in death resurrection.

SONG

Why Me?

By Kris Kristofferson

Erica Kessler

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Creator God: We acknowledge that, like grass, we flourish briefly and fade all too soon. This very day we mourn the departure from this earthly life of someone we have known and loved. In spite of our faith in your power and in your love, our sense of loss is real. Come to us, we pray, in power and in love. In the midst of fading grass and fading lives, remind us of the things that cannot perish: your written Word, preserved in Scripture, and your living Word, Jesus, the Christ, our unfading Savior, in whose name we offer this prayer. **Amen.**

POEM: (Unison, see back of bulletin)

Footprints in the Sand

By Margaret Fishback Powers

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah. . .

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is an 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. (ISAIAH 40:28–31)

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 23 (in unison):

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (KJV)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans...

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus

has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,

he who raised Christ from the dead

will give life to your mortal bodies also

through his Spirit that dwells in you.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God,

and if children, then heirs,

heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—

if, in fact, we suffer with him

so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time

are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God,

who are called according to his purpose.

What then are we to say about these things?

If God is for us, who is against us?

He 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?

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,

or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors

through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers, nor 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.

(ROMANS 8:1–2, 11, 14, 17–18, 28, 31–32, 35–39)

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL LESSON:

John 14:1 – 3, 18 - 19, 25 - 27

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to John the 14th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse. . .

[Jesus said,] "Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If it were not so,

 would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come again and will take you to myself,

so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going.

 I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

 In a little while the world will no longer see me,

but you will see me;

because I live, you also will live.

I have said these things to you while I am still with you.

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,

 will teach you everything,

 and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ

SERMON

"Because I live, you also will live"

Pastor Uziel Hernández Martínez

RESPONSE HYMN:

It is well with my Soul

By: Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer

WITNESSING

Pastor, family, friends, and members of the congregation may briefly voice their thankfulness to God for the grace they have received in the life of the deceased and their Christian faith and joy.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jealous of the Angels

By Donna Taggart

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

COMMENDATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

God of us all, your love never ends.
When all else fails, you still are God.
We pray to you for one another in our need,
and for all, anywhere, who mourn with us this day.
To those who doubt, give light;
to those who are weak, strength;
to all who have sinned, mercy;
to all who sorrow, your peace.
Keep true in us
the love with which we hold one another.
In all our ways we trust you.
And to you,
with your Church on earth and in heaven,
we offer honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O God, all that you have given us is yours.
As first you gave *Keith* to us,
now we give *Keith* back to you.

Receive *Keith* into the arms of your mercy.
Raise *Keith* up with all your people.
Receive us also, and raise us into a new life.
Help us so to love and serve you in this world
that we may enter into your joy in the world to come. **Amen.**

Into your hands, O merciful Savior,
we commend your servant *Keith*.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you,
a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.
Receive *Keith* into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the saints of light. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of love, we thank you for all with which you have blessed us even to this day: for the gift of joy in days of health and strength and for the gifts of your abiding presence and promise in days of pain and grief. We praise you for home and friends, and for our baptism and place in your Church with all who have faithfully lived and died. Above all else we thank you for Jesus, who knew our griefs, who died our death and rose for our sake, and who lives and prays for us. And as he taught us, so now we pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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. Amen.

HYMN

Amazing Grace

UMH 378

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING:

The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENT FORTH:

In the Garden
By: Alan Jackson

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Footprints in the Sand

By: Margaret Fishback Powers

*One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.
After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.
This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
“Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You’d walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don’t understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me.”
He whispered, “My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.”*