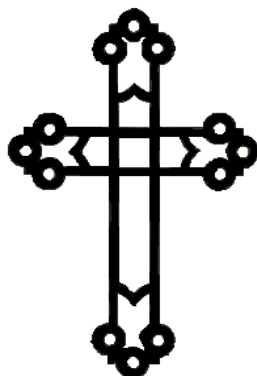


Christ yesterday and today,

The Alpha and Omega

The beginning and the end



*William Arthur Witham*

*February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1925 – May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

*Bette Patricia Witham*

*June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1924 – September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

**The Rev. Bonnie Skerritt  
St. Paul's Anglican Church  
45 Russell Street West, Lindsay ON K9V 2W8**



**A Service of Thanksgiving  
For the lives of  
Bill and Bette Witham  
May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

(Taken from the Book of Alternative Services, ACC)

Where the words are in **bold**, please join the Celebrant in saying these words, as you are able.

**Prelude - To God be the Glory  
Blessed Assurance**

**Welcome**

**Processional Hymn # 602 LIFT HIGH THE CROSS**

**Words of Comfort from the Officiant**

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*

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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 8.38-39*

**PSALM 23 (responsively)** led by Rick Witham

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures \* and leads me beside still waters.**

3 He revives my soul \* and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \* for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \* and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Then the celebrant shall say,*                      The Lord be with you.  
**People**    **And also with you.**

Celebrant              Let us pray.

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Show compassion to your people in their sorrow.

Be our refuge and our strength to lift us from the darkness of grief to the peace and light of your presence.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us, conquered death and by rising again, restored life.

May we then go forward eagerly to meet him, and after our life on earth be reunited with our brothers and sisters where every tear will be wiped away. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Lord.

**People**    **Amen.**

Family Remembrance

**Hymn # 505 - BE THOU MY VISION**

**Readings**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading - Lamentations 3: 17-26 & 31-33

read by Al Witham

Psalm 139    read by Janet Farina

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - John 11: 17-27              read by Audrey Anderson

Gospel - Mathew 11: 25-30

**Homily - Canon Greg Physick**

**Hymn # 423 - HOW GREAT THOU ART**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**Celebrant** Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
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 THE PEOPLE**

**Ethel Morris**

God of grace and glory, we thank you for Bill and Bette, who were so near and dear to us, and who have now been taken from us.

We thank you for friendship they gave and for the strength and peace they brought.

We thank you for the love they offered and received while they were with us on earth.

We ask you that we who were close to them may now, because of their death, be even closer to each other, and that we may, in peace and friendship here on earth, always be deeply conscious of your promise to be faithful to us in death.

We pray for ourselves, who are severely tested by their death, that we do not try to minimize this loss, or seek refuge from it in words alone, and also that we do not brood over it so that it overwhelms us and isolates us from others.

May God grant us courage and confidence in the new life of Christ. We ask this in the name of the risen Lord. **Amen**

#### **Sharing the Peace**

**Solo    AMAZING GRACE    (accordion)                      Ed Call**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Celebrant    And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All            **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, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### **Choir Anthem – Make me a Channel of your Peace**

#### **THE BLESSING and THE DISMISSAL**

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;  
to all the world, peace and concord; and to us and to every faithful servant, life everlasting: and the blessing  
of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The eternal God is your dwelling place,  
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

ALL    **Blessed is the Lord, our strength and our salvation.**

#### **“Go In Peace”**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn #531 -**

**YOU WHO DWELL IN THE SHELTER OF THE LORD**

**(Eagles Wings)**

**Postlude – Take My Life And Let It Be  
Let the Son of God Enfold you**

**PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS**

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.  
Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.  
Where there is discord, let me bring union.  
Where there is error, let me bring truth.  
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.  
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.  
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.  
O Master, let me not seek as much  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love,  
for it is in giving that one receives,  
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,  
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,  
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.

(Thanksgiving to the St. Francis Group which started in 1967)