



St. Philip Presbyterian Church

MAY 31, 2023

A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

IN MEMORY OF

RUTH MANN EWING

MARCH 31, 1927 — MAY 21, 2023

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

✠ **HYMN 826** ([see page 4](#))

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

✠ **PRAYER**

Eternal God,
our strength and our comfort,
our hope and our help,
your love cares for us in life
and watches over us in death.
We praise you for the great company
of all those who have kept the faith,
finished their race,
and who now rest from their labor.
Especially we thank you for Ruth,
whom you have now received into your presence.
We are grateful for all she gave us,
for the memories that will abide with us,
and for the assurance that she lives forever
in the peace and joy of your unending love.
Take from us now our regrets and sorrows,
and grant us your grace, we pray,
that as we face the mystery of death
we may see the light of eternity, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

silent prayer

Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

✠ **DECLARATION**

REMEMBRANCES

SOLO

How Great Thou Art

arr. Eric Nelson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Philippians 4:4-9
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:7
Romans 12:1-18

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

✠ **HYMN 829** ([see page 5](#))

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts,
 as we forgive our debtors.
 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 835** ([see page 6](#))

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

CLOSER WALK

✠ **COMMENDATION**

✠ **BLESSING**

✠ **RECESSIONAL**

*Following the service, everyone is invited to a reception
 in the Gathering Area adjacent to the Sanctuary.*

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster

The Rev. Keatan King

The Rev. Omar Rouchon

Randall Swanson, organist

Sarah Bertrand, soloist

Hymn 826

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

Verses

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
 your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry. *to Refrain*

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

TEXT: George William Kitchin, 1887; rev. Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.
 MUSIC: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916; desc. Richard Proulx, 1985
 Text and Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

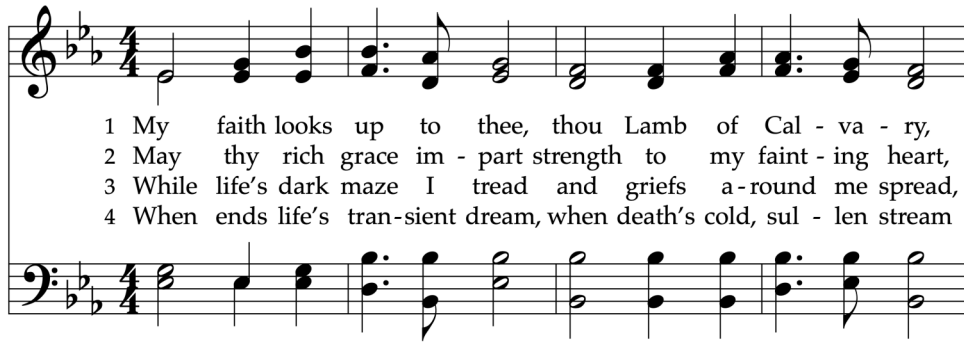
CRUCIFER
 10.10 with refrain

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Hymn 829

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran-sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day; wipe sor-row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way; nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran-somed soul!

Originally a poem of private reflection, this text was offered to the composer when he asked the author if he had written anything that could be set to music for a new hymn and tune collection. This was the first tune written for these words and has proved the most enduring.

TEXT: Ray Palmer, 1830
 MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1831, alt.

OLIVET
 6.6.4.6.6.6.4

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Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,
 1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for

Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. *Ref.*

The chromatic musical style of this anonymous short hymn suggests that it probably dates from the early 20th century. It also seems to owe much of its popularity to radio broadcasts and recordings as well as to evangelistic meetings and singing conventions of that era.

TEXT and MUSIC: Trad. North American hymn

CLOSER WALK
Irregular

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RUTH MANN EWING, 96, passed peacefully in her home surrounded by loved ones on May 21, 2023. The enduring themes of her life have been faith, family, and friends that she collected and cherished like precious gemstones.

Ruth was born into the loving family of parents Eri "Pete" Mann, Helen German Mann, and sister Betty Mann Clark on March 31, 1927 in St. Louis, MO. Raised in the Tower Grove South neighborhood, she walked to church every Sunday and learned of the love of God at the childhood church of her own mother, Oak Hill Presbyterian where she befriended her life-long pals Katie and Wilma. Attending both Horace Mann and Mason School, she added Celeste, Pat, and Betty to her collection of gems at Roosevelt High School. Before graduating in the January 1945 Class, she served on Student Council, was President of the Pep R Club, Senior Class Secretary, Volleyball Team Captain, sang in the A Cappella Choir, and was voted "Most Popular Girl" by her Senior class because "she listens." She also met that cute Jack Ewing in first-year algebra who at that time became one of her many friends.

Ruth spent two years studying Art and Fashion Design at Washington University where one day she walked into her Drawing class to find that the live model upon that particular day was that cute Jack Ewing from first-year algebra. The next week, SHE invited him to go on a Church Hayride.

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After the following summer, Jack and his family moved to Los Angeles where he attended the University of Southern California, and Ruth remained at home working as a secretary for various medical practices, but they kept in touch for over three years by letter. It was through those letters that they truly got to know one another. By the end of his Senior year, Jack had been recruited by the Group Insurance Division of Aetna Life & Casualty, and Ruth and her Mother took the train out to L.A. to watch him graduate from USC.

Per his request, Aetna sent Jack to Houston, Texas (an up & coming town in 1951). He asked Ruth to marry him by mail, and when she said yes, he mailed her an engagement ring. They married at Oak Hill Presbyterian on September 7th and honeymooned through Biloxi and New Orleans while driving to Houston where she arrived as a new bride in a new city sight unseen. For over 46 1/2 years, they were an extraordinary team. Theirs was the kind of union we all wish we could have for ourselves; the kind of marriage you'd hope for for your children. It was a relationship of mutual love, deep respect, great kindness, and tremendous consideration.

Shortly thereafter, Ruth met the other love of her life, St. Philip Presbyterian Church where she cultivated a whole slew of friends over her 71+ years as a member. In the early days it was Jody, Betty, and Faith followed in later years by such gems as Jeannie, Jen, Lorrie, and Olga. Originally known as Memorial Oaks Presbyterian when she joined, the congregation met in the Board Room of the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on Bissonnet, eventually becoming Saint Philip on San Felipe. She served as both a Deacon and an Elder, volunteered in the church office for over 30 years answering phones every Tuesday morning, was a founding member of the church knitting group that makes seafarers caps for sailors, regularly served meals to the homeless community through Lord of the Streets, and was the church calligrapher using her beautiful handwriting to fill in baptismal and confirmation certificates, hymnal dedications, and memorial acknowledgements. Her supplies for this job were turned back into the church office just last week.

In the early years of her marriage, Ruth worked for Continental Airlines in the Neils Esperson Building while Jack was just down the block in the Mellie Esperson. They lived in duplex apartments first on Shakespeare and then on Law, but as their family grew they found a wonderful lot in Hunters Creek Village, and in 1956 built the home in which Ruth would spend the next 67 years. In that new neighborhood with lots of young couples, she added such precious jewels as Jean, Carolyn, Jackie, and Ina Claire to her collection of friends and in more recent years such wonderful women as Vi, Mary Sue, and Mary Jo.

Ruth gave birth to four athletic children who in turn had athletic children of their own, so she has spent a great deal of her life watching sports from the stands - basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, football. A life long St. Louis Cardinals fan, she and Jack also had Astros season tickets along the first baseline in the Astrodome for many years where she kept stats throughout the game the old-fashioned way with pen and program. Once the Houston Racquet Club came into being near her home, she revived her own athletic abilities and spent decades

playing doubles tennis. On the weekdays a couple of matches with the ladies, and on the weekends with her husband. Her devotion to the game was so complete that one morning a 4th had to cancel at the last minute and a replacement proved hard to find. Undaunted, she drove up to Memorial High School, pulled her 18-year-old son out of class under the ruse of a doctor's appointment, put a racket in his hand, and the match was saved.

Jack & Ruth were members of Lakeside Country Club from 1956 until shortly before his passing in 1998. Beginning in 1973, they owned a beautiful home on Lake Travis high on a cliff with the most extraordinary view in Texas that they enjoyed for many years. She was a member of the Memorial Garden Club and the Investment Club, and during these many years, her life was truly enriched by her dearest of friends, Marilyn, Alice, and Ruby - all the most precious of jewels.

Jack & Ruth developed a love of travel which took them all over the world. If there was a destination she was interested in, but he was not, he sent her anyway with friends or family. Soon, he began to delight in planning for and sending her on both big and small vacations that he called "The Trip of the Month" because in his eyes, she was a queen who deserved the world.

Anyone who met Ruth, instantly liked Ruth. She was a kind and gentle soul who exuded warmth and sweetness through her lovely blue eyes. She had a genuine concern for others and a fun, but quiet, sense of humor. She loved cats throughout her life beginning with big orange fluffy WimpyCat who let his little sister dress him in all sorts of ridiculous doll clothes and followed the family as they walked to the movies on Saturday nights in St. Louis. He was followed by the Wash-n-Wear cat Jincks, a Siamese who truly did live all of her nine lives in 21 years, and finishing with Lightning, Flame, and Lucy, all well-loved and well-cared for. She loved Stan Musial (there is a virtual shrine to him in her home), Andy Williams, and Musical Theater. She would often answer a question not with actual spoken words but by bursting into song with the appropriate Broadway Show Tune that had the proper lyrics for the proper answer to your question.

For the past 25 years since her husband's passing, Ruth has lived an admirably independent life. She lived alone in her beloved Camelot Woods home and drove herself to church, the hairdresser, ordered online and picked up her own groceries, and even recently renewed her drivers license. As a 60-something year old friend said recently, "I want to be Ruth when I grow up." There is no doubt that she has been a wonderful role model for what a good Christian woman, wife, and mother should be. She will be terribly missed by all who know and love her.

She is survived by her four children Randolph Ewing (wife Helen), Tom Ewing (wife Linda), Linda Elaine Ewing, and Ellen Ewing, along with her much loved sister-in-law Janet Ewing Davis and 3 nieces. She has 7 wonderful grandchildren with 7 wonderful spouses, and so far, 5 great grandchildren with another one on the way.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to St. Philip Presbyterian Church.

