



THE COMMUNITY OF ST PHILIP AT WORSHIP

AUGUST 26, 2023

A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

IN MEMORY OF

ELLEN AMELIA MACDONALD

JUNE 10, 1930 — JUNE 13, 2023

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

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

✠ HYMN 39 [\(see page 5\)](#)

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

✠ 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 Ellen,
 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Proverbs 3:1-8
 Romans 12:1-18
 Romans 8:31-39

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

SERMON

✠ **HYMN 157** ([see page 6](#))

I Danced in the Morning

LORD OF THE DANCE

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 625** ([see page 8](#))

O Lord My God

HOW GREAT THOU ART

✠ **COMMENDATION**

✠ **BLESSING**

✠ **RECESSIONAL**

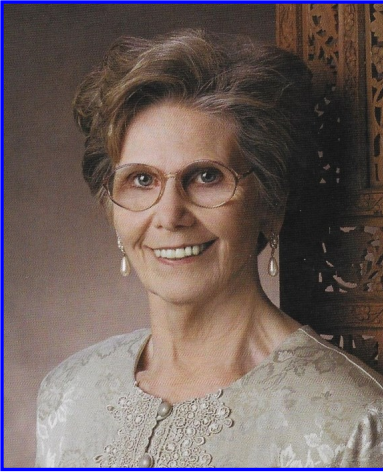
*Following the service, everyone is invited to a reception
 in the Gathering Area adjacent to the Sanctuary.*

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster

The Rev. Omar Rouchon

Matthew Dirst, organist



ELLEN AMELIA MACDONALD (née Hobbs) of Houston, TX, passed away peacefully at home on June 13, 2023, at the age of 93. Originally from Brooklyn, Ellen was generous, visionary, collaborative, egalitarian, determined, resourceful, and a woman of unshakable faith.

Ellen MacDonald's sixty-year career was defined by her passion for gerontological nursing, sparked on the drive home from work one day in 1972. Seeing several older adults literally parked in rockers on the porch of an "old folks home", she was struck by how much more they deserved and had yet to offer, and by a vision of what their life could be. With a Bachelor of Arts from Houghton College, a Master of Nursing from Case Western Reserve University, and an adventurous, pioneering spirit, Ellen was poised to bring significant change to the face of older adulthood. And bring it she did.

As an RN certified in Public Health, Psych/Mental Health, and Gerontology, Ellen made considerable contributions to the field. After teaching at several colleges, establishing an older adult services program at a community mental health center, and serving as Director of Nursing in two skilled nursing facilities, Ellen joined the faculty of the Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth Houston. There she served as Division Head for Gerontology and was instrumental in establishing both the degree program in Long-Term Care Administration and the Center on Aging, where she was Associate Director for Community Affairs. She was Program Director for the Texas state Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, bringing it into residence at the Center on Aging, where it remains to this day.

A natural sub-specialty in dementia led to Ellen's appointment to the Texas Governor's Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders. She was two-term President of the Alzheimer's Association Houston & Southeast Texas Chapter, and served as a board member of many organizations, including Texas Interfaith Housing, Amazing Place, Care for Elders, and the Houston-Galveston Council Department on Aging. After retiring from UT in 1999, Ellen served as the Vice President for Clinical Affairs at Sheltering Arms Senior Services, as Executive Director of the Senior Guidance Directory, and as an Elder-care Consultant in private practice.

Her outstanding contributions were recognized with the 1994 Joseph C. Valley Gerontological Professional of the Year award, the 2004 ABC Channel 13 Woman of Distinction award, and the 2005 Foley's/Houston Chronicle SAVVY Award. Ellen continued to share generously of her time and talent to help strengthen worthy community initiatives. She was a long-time board member of the Harmony Public Schools charter school system, where she contributed to the education and well-being of countless students. She also participated in Project Kindness, a program that pairs older adults with college honors students, allowing the generations to share their experiences with one another. Not surprisingly, the relationships she built deepened and endured long after the projects ended, right up to the day she went home.

Ellen was a lifelong devout Christian, her unwavering faith an integral part of her life. An active member of St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston, she cherished her role as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, a special type of deep service which ran parallel to that as the wife of an ordained Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Dr. Coval MacDonald, who preceded her in death.

Amid such wholehearted giving to her family and communities, Ellen always reserved prime energy for the Houston Astros. A lifetime baseball fan who grew up behind first base cheering the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field with her Aunt Nan, Ellen was present to witness the dazzling moment when Jackie Robinson took the field for the first time. She delighted in pre-game hobnobbing with the players as they autographed her cards, resulting in a full collection of the Boys of Summer... which met with tragedy when her mother discarded it during a cleaning sweep. Although Ellen never forgave her, they have no doubt made amends by now.

Ellen is survived by her daughter, Lisa Wellington; and her brother and sister-in-law, Wally & June Hobbs. She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Coval; her brother, Hal; and her parents, Clarence & Ella Hobbs. She is also survived by four sets of non-DNA family (ever growing!): Karl & Diane Slaikeu (Erik & Kristina); Brian & Paula Snyder (Kerry & Kayla); Andy & Aileen McCormick (Drew, Jenna, and Sean); and Veli & Phoebe Baysal (Kamile & Miriam).

In lieu of flowers or gifts (or plants which will succumb to Lisa's earnest but pitch-black thumb), please consider a donation either to St. Philip Presbyterian Church (Ellen's beloved church home since 1968) or to Brazos Towers (where she enjoyed her last two years with dear friends old and new, among the most wonderful staff anyone could ask for).

For St. Philip, donations can be made at saintphilip.net or mailed to the church at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056. For Brazos Towers, please make your check out to Brazos Presbyterian Homes and send to Brazos Towers, Attn: Karen Davis, 4141 South Braeswood Blvd, Houston TX 77025. Both are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thy own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou has been thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain
 Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed— great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

TEXT: Thomas O. Chilholm (1866-1960) © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Company
 MUSIC: William M. Runyan (1870-1957) © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Company

FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

HYMN 157

I Danced in the Morning

LORD OF THE DANCE

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
 3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †

(Em) Gm (A) C

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) F (Bm) Dm (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me, †

(Em) Gm (A7) C7 (G) Bb (D) F

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die.
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the life of Christ, though written for this Shaker tune, has many similarities with the pre-Reformation carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Such narrative carols were common both at Christmas and as part of medieval mystery plays.

TEXT: Sydney Carter, 1963
 MUSIC: American Shaker melody; adapt. Sydney Carter, 1963
 Text and Music © 1963 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

LORD OF THE DANCE
 Irregular

continued

continued

Refrain

(F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm

Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

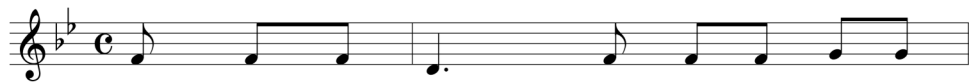
(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)
Gm C F Dm F C7 F

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher-ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Gm C7 F B^b F

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

[*return to page 3*](#)



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe-some
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla -



won - der Con - sid - er all the works thy hands have
 wan - der And hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the
 spar - ing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it
 ma - tion And take me home, what joy shall fill my



made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
 trees, When I look down from loft - y moun-tain
 in That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
 heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through-out the u - ni-verse dis - played!
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze,
 bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin!
 ra - tion And there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: How great thou



art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!

Text: Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Tune: HOW GREAT THOU ART, 11 10 11 10 with refrain; Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

© 1949, 1953, Stuart K. Hine Trust. Print rights administered by Hope Publishing Company in the USA.

[return to page 3](#)