

A Witness to the Resurrection

Margaret Rose Ritchey

1950-2022



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Saturday, September 17, 2022, 11 am
Margaret Rose Ritchey
A Witness to the Resurrection

Prelude

“Spiegel im Spiegel”

Arvo Pärt

Word of Welcome

Sentences of Scripture

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life;

All: If anyone believes in me, even though she die, she will live; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

Leader: To those who are heavy burdened, Jesus said,

All: “Come to me, all who are overburdened, and I will give you rest.”

Leader: The Psalmist proclaims: “Our help is in the name of our God, The Maker of Heaven and Earth...

All: God is our Refuge and our Strength, a very present help in times of trouble and pain.”

Leader: Trusting in God’s love and knowing of God’s presence with us, let us give thanks to God for the life of Margaret Rose Ritchey, through our thoughts, words, and prayers. Let us worship God!

Anthem

“O God Beyond All Praising”

Jett Downey, Soloist

Hebrew Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Evelyn, William and Adam Ritchey

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

*Hymn

"Because God Is My Shepherd"

The congregation is invited to sing the refrain:

God, you are my Shepherd,
You are my Friend,
I want to follow you always,
Just to follow my friend."

Gospel Reading

John 11, selected verses

Rev. Dan Smith

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-7

Carol Chonoska

'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.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-11

Amy Whipple

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

*Hymn

"Goodness is Stronger Than Evil"

Jett Downey and Lydia McShane will sing once, followed by the congregation twice

Meditation

Rev. Dan Smith

Brief Reflections

Prayer in Celebration of Maggie's Life and Values

Susan Kramer

"A Prayer of Celebration & Creativity"

Leader: We believe in a sacred power within and around us –
a divine spirit that we call by many names and experience in many ways –
that empowers and heals –
that calls us forth into the fullness of life.

All: We believe in creativity.

Leader: Making and transforming beauty out of light and color, drama and performance, music, art and dance.

All: We believe in our dreams.

Leader: We experience the world as it is – and we see what it can become.

All: We believe in love.

Leader: A passionate love within and around us that laughs and cries –
challenges and comforts –
a healing love that preserves.

All: We believe in our potential.

Leader: We know who we are – painful as that can be at times, yet we continue to call each other to become more of who we are.

All: We believe in celebrating.

Leader: We remember and we commemorate. We play and dance and sing and love well.

All: We celebrate our diversity.

Leader: We affirm our many shapes and sizes, colors and traditions, emotions and thoughts, differences and similarities.

All: We believe in life.

Leader: Life that wells up within and flows out of us like a streaming fountain.

All: We believe that we are good and holy, a sacred part of creation,

Leader: and that God has created each and every one of us to be creative, to dream dreams, to believe in love, to reach our potential, to celebrate life and to enjoy diversity.

As we gather here today, we remember each of these gifts that was central to the way

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

2219

D Em/D A/C# Bm7 G D/F# Em Em7 A7
 Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than

D2 D D Em/D A Bm7 G D/F# Em Em7 A7
 hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness; life is strong-er than

D D7 G C#m7(b5) D7/F# Bm
 death. Vic - tory is ours, vic - tory is ours, through him who

Oh, vic - tory is ours, vic - tory is ours

Em7/G Asus 1 D D7 2 D
 loved us. Vic - tory is us.

through him who loved us. Oh, us.

Congregation: Unison or partsWORDS: From *An African Prayer Book*, selected by Desmond Tutu

MUSIC: John Bell

GOODNESS IS STRONGER
Irregular

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that Maggie lived her life and the values she believed in.

All: We thank God that Maggie was able to share these gifts with us. AMEN.

*Hymn

"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"

488

Responsive Prayer of Remembrance

Leader: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

All: We remember Maggie.

Leader: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

All: we remember her.

Leader: In the opening buds and in the rebirth of spring,

All: we remember her.

Leader: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

All: we remember her.

Leader: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

All: we remember her.

Leader: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

All: we remember her.

Leader: When we are weary and in need of strength,

All: we remember her.

Leader: When we are lost and sick at heart,

All: we remember her.

Leader: When we have joys we yearn to share,

All: we remember her.

Leader: So long as we live, she too shall live, for Maggie is now a part of us as we remember her.

Prayer Response

"Un Joueur de Flute Berce les Ruines"

Fracis Poulenc

Martha Funderburgh, Flute

Commendation

Choral Benediction

"A Gaelic Blessing"

John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you

Deep peace of the flowing air to you

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you

Deep peace of the shining stars to you

Deep peace of the gentle night to you

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you

Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you

Deep peace of Christ to you

488 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry



1 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no



you are old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord to
 lon - ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -



see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be - long. If you find some - one to share your
 plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es



child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
 in and you shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as



light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
 make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I have al - ways been with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

Originally created to accompany a video series on baptism, this hymn speaks in the imagined conversational voice of God, assuring the person being baptized of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life. It offers a reminder that baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

**Those who can may stand*

The family invites you to join them after the service for refreshments

Memorial gifts may be sent to the ALS Association, which provided amazing emotional support, as well as equipment necessary for Maggie's care. You can donate by going to www.als.org and selecting the Western Pennsylvania Chapter.