

A Memorial Service Celebrating the Life
of
Kathryn Jane Harper "Katie" Kowierschke



November 8, 1931 – July 12, 2023

July 22, 2023
Calvary Lutheran Church
Richland Hills, TX

She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs without fear of the future.
Proverbs 31:25

Prelude:

Call to Worship

Please stand and face the rear of the sanctuary.

A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the

flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the LORD blows

upon it;

Surely the people is grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand

for ever.

Isaiah 40: 6-7

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

C Thanks be to God.

P When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
 blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
 Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;
 send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -
 dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,
 set us free by the truth you now bring us.
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

Shine on me, shine on me:
 Shine on me, shine on me:

Text: Graham Kendrick

Music: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE, Graham Kendrick

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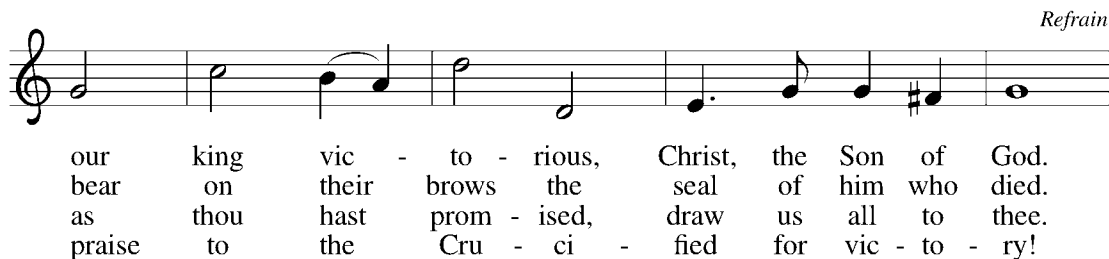
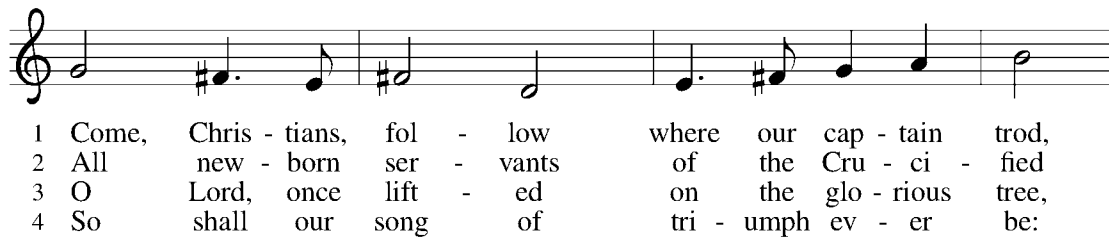
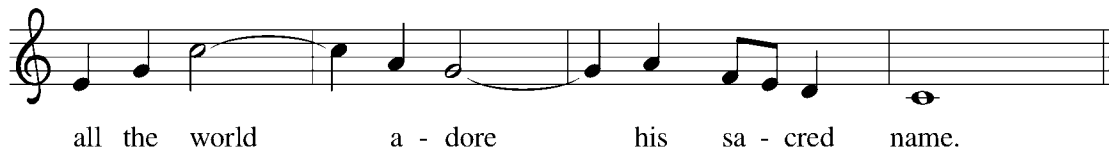
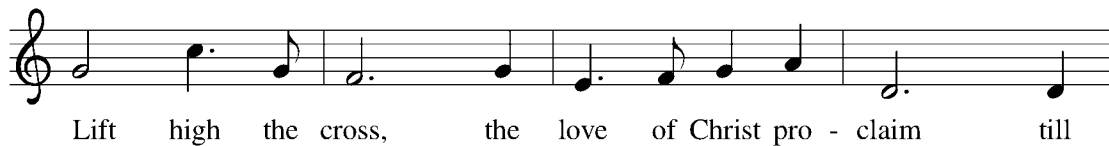
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray: O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister Katye. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console all who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Lift High the Cross



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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Psalm 139 – Read Responsively

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down,

and are acquainted with all my ways.

**⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.**

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

⁷Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

**⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"

**¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.**

Borning Cry



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



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as 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."

Isaiah 35

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

Revelation 21

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; ³ and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

Matthew 25

³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Let There Be Peace on Earth – by Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me

The Creed

P We confess the faith of the church throughout the ages, the faith Katye lived and the faith in which she died.

C **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 into hell. 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.**

The Prayers

P Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

- P** Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray.
- C** **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, and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen**

The Distribution

The Prayer of St. Jude – by Phillip Heinze

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored;
 Be glorified, loved and preserved;
 Throughout the whole world forevermore
 May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored
 Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us
 Helper of the hopeless pray for us
 Worker of miracles pray for us
 O Sacred heart of Jesus pray for us.

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y
through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

Refrain

wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath-ered to one for all.

The Commendation

- P** Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Katye. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.
- C** Into paradise may the angels lead you. At your coming may the martyrs receive you and bring you into the holy city Jerusalem. May a choir of angels welcome you, and, where Lazarus is poor no more, may you have everlasting rest.

I'll Fly Away

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away;
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.

I'll fly away, Oh Glory I'll fly away;
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away;
To a land where joy shall never end, I'll fly away.



The Reverend Phillip Heinze
The Reverend Kyle Rouze
The Reverend Ellen Ely - soloist
Scott Zesch - piano
Carol Kocher - Organist
Janelle Miller – Director of Youth and Family Ministries



Kathryn Jane Harper "Katie" Kowierschke was born in 1931 to Genoa Neal Harper and Milam Andrew "Red" Harper in Floresville, Texas. She was the oldest of three children. She grew up in Karnes City, Texas, and after graduating from Karnes City High School attended Texas Lutheran College in Seguin where she met the love of her life - Sidney W. Kowierschke.

After graduating with an associates degree and getting married, she and Sidney moved to Birmingham, Alabama where they both graduated from Medical Technology School, and she became an ASCP-certified medical technologist. They moved back to Texas when Sidney was accepted to medical school.

While Sidney attended medical school at UT-Southwestern in Dallas, their four girls were born. After graduating medical school, she and Sidney lived in various locations

but ended up in Bryan, Texas where Sidney had an independent pathology practice and Katye supervised the lab.

While they raised their children, Katye was active with the Republican Party of Brazos County and was the first woman elected as Chair of Brazos County Republican Party. Katye served as Senatorial District 6 representative on the State Republican Executive Committee for 14 years.

After Sidney died, Katye went back to school and obtained an undergraduate degree at Texas A&M University in Journalism. She then obtained her master's degree in Adult Literacy, also from Texas A&M University. President George H.W. Bush appointed Katye to the U.S. Department of Education as the Secretary's Regional Director for Region 6. After the President's term ended, Texas A&M hired Katye to work with the Colonia Program throughout border towns in Texas.

After Katye retired, she was able to volunteer at Calvary Lutheran Church for the mission trips, and Room at the Inn homeless shelter. She was a Master Gardner and Silver Life Master Duplicate Bridge Player and was very active with the Fort Worth Bridge Club. But Katye did not want to be remembered for these accomplishments. Rather, she wanted to be remembered by God's accomplishments working through her and the honor of being used for that purpose.

"Everything should be praise to the Mighty Triune God - Father, Son, and Spirit who blessed me so richly through my life's journey. First with the faith my mother led me to, second bringing Sidney to me and third, blessing us both with daughters beyond compare! Then grandchildren and great grandchildren. It is my desire that all praise and honor go to my Redeemer King!"

Katye completely lost her eyesight overnight from a rare autoimmune disease and went from being completely independent to completely dependent. She never complained. Instead, she knew and professed that God just wasn't through with her yet and looked forward to what He had in store for her. Even when she was in an assisted living facility, Jesus' light shined right through her. In her last years, she was able to live with her daughter, Elaine Echols in Virginia. It was her desire to come back to Texas for her final time. She lived with her daughter Karen Mitchell in the Texas Hill Country.

Katye is preceded in death by her parents and her wonderful husband and his parents. She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Sam and Judy Harper, Austin; her sister and brother-in-law, Peggy and Dick Chambers, Norman, OK; her sister-in-law, Iva Galindo, San Antonio; her daughters, Linda K. Miller, Fort Worth; Elaine K. Echols (Jim), Stuarts Draft, VA; Sandra Kowierschke, Euless; and Karen K. Mitchell (Greg), Castell, Texas. She is also survived by her adoring grandchildren: Matt Hooper, Lindsay Shoush (Nick), Sara Bernet (Andrew), Sydney King (Dalton), Jason

McCandless, Ryan B. Mitchell, John Echols (Samantha), Pete Echols (Meg) and six great grands with two more on the way! She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews who adored their "Aunt Katye".

A very special thanks goes to all the staff at Solaris Hospice in Llano, Texas, especially Sonni Hunt, RN and Skylar Forrester, MD.

In lieu of flowers, Katye requested that donations be made to St. Jude's Hospital to help ALL of God's children who need it. To donate, please click the provided link.

<https://raise.stjude.org/katyek>