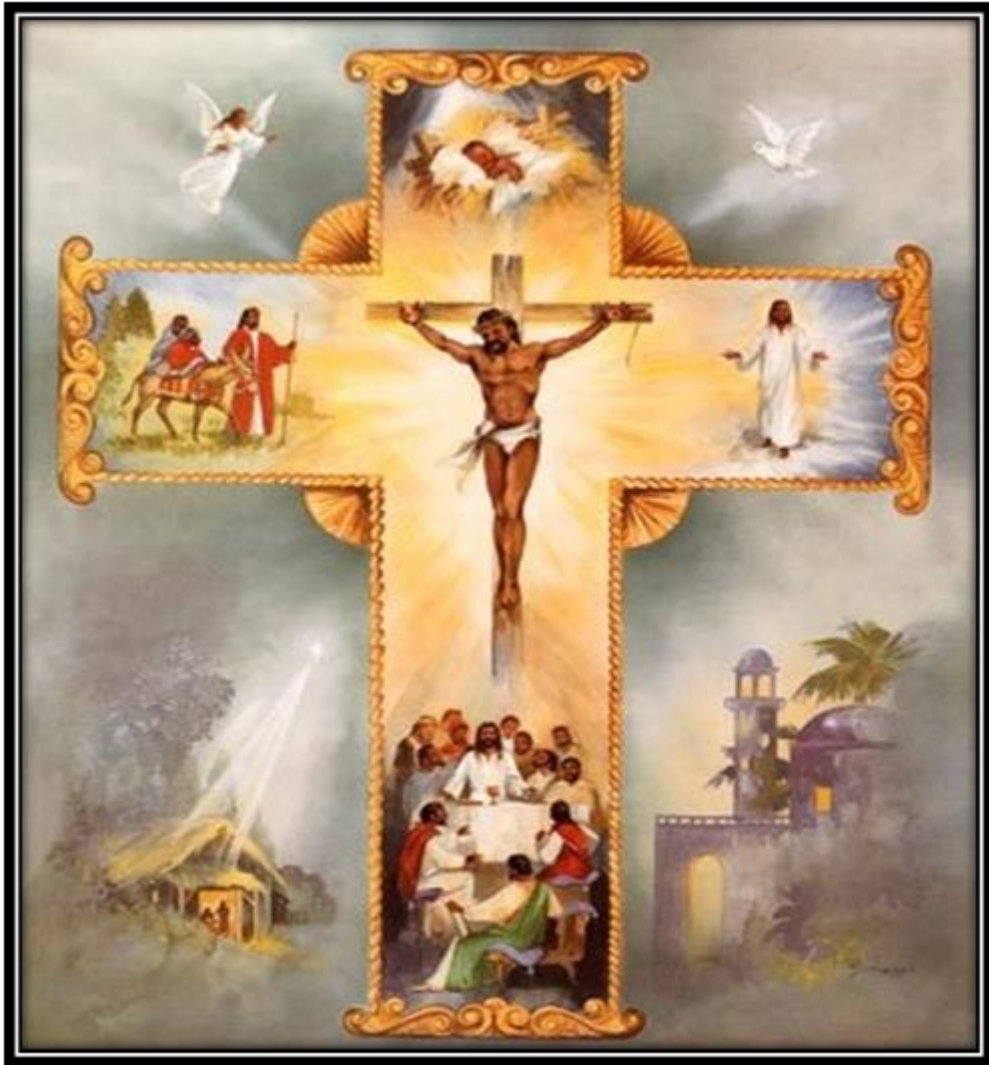


A CHRISTIAN FUNERAL SERVICE

JANUARY 18, 2020



Child of God and Heir of the Resurrection

Carol J. Firari

Born - May 12, 1960

Crown of Glory - January 11, 2020

COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT BEFORE THE SERVICE

Know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of God the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

We say with Job, “The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” Help us find comfort through the realization that we have not lost Carol but have only sent her before us to heaven. Let Carol’s death remind us to be ready at all times to follow your call to depart from this world to the joys of the life to come.

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 – Carol’s bookmark was on this section of scripture.

¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Prayer before the service:

Eternal God, you exist through time and eternity. We are like grass that withers and flowers that fade. Teach us to number our days, to know how frail we are, and to prepare daily by faith for a blessed end. Do not permit the sting of death to make us afraid. Help us at all times to look to Jesus, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Lead us to rejoice in the truth that when our loved ones die in the Lord, they are blessed in going to you, where there will be neither sorrow, nor crying, nor pain, and where you will wipe away every tear from their eyes. When our last hour comes, let us depart in peace and lay hold of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As we begin our worship service, let us remember the good news that our sister in the one true faith, Carol Firari, is wrapped up in the loving arms of her Savior in heaven solely because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. So let us worship focusing our thoughts and emotions on the gospel of Christ.

Christian Funeral Worship

M: We begin this Christian funeral service for Carol Firari in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn for Carol, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel our doubts and fears, and lead us to praise you for having brought Carol to faith. In your rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word, and lead us through this earthly life until at last we are united with you and all the saints in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

Hymn: # 588 vv. 1 & 5

"Abide with Me"

1) Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.

The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.

When other helpers fail and comforts flee,

Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!

5) I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.

What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?

Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?

Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!

M: The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

Dear friends, God did not create Adam and Eve to die. But after our first parents sinned, God said that death would come to all people. At a time like this, God speaks to our hearts. He says, "For dust you are and to dust you will return." His Scriptures also

tell us that just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death came to all, because all sinned. At this moment we sense deeply the fulfillment of God's words.

But God sent his one and only Son to become the sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Christ gave himself freely into death and rose again, that all who look up to him in faith will have eternal life. In this way the Lord has had compassion on us. "For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." Therefore, death for the Christian is not the end of life but the beginning of eternal joy with Jesus in paradise.

Christ was raised from the dead and became the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. Now we know that when he returns "we will not all sleep, but we will be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

M: Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, let us stand firm in the Lord and always be faithful to him in life and in death. Since all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, may he teach us to number our days aright no matter how old or young we may be, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us, "for none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

C: Thanks be to God for the comfort of his Word!

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

- 6) I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.**
- 7) Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!**

1st Lesson

Proverbs 31:1-31

Chosen by Carol's Husband, Frank

¹⁰ A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. ¹¹ Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. ¹² She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³ She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. ¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. ¹⁵ She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants. ¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷ She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. ¹⁸ She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹ In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. ²⁰ She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. ²¹ When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. ²² She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. ²³ Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. ²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. ²⁵ She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. ²⁶ She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. ²⁷ She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ²⁹ “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.” ³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹ Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Hymn: #440 vv. 1 & 3

“On Eagles' Wings”

- 1) You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in his shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge, My rock in whom I trust!"
And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

- 3) For to his angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

2nd Lesson

Job 19:23-27

Chosen by Carol's daughter, Chelsey

²³ “Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, ²⁴ that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! ²⁵ I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; ²⁷ I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Hymn: # 152 vv. 1, 5, 7, 8

“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

**1) I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living Head!**

**5) He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears.
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart**

**7) He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death.
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.**

**8) He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
“I know that my Redeemer lives!”**

3rd Lesson

John 11:17–27

Chosen by Carol's daughter, Kara

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

Hymn:# 379 “Amazing Grace”



**1) Amazing grace -- how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.**

**2) The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

**3) Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

**4) When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.**

4th Lesson

Matthew 19:13–15

¹³ Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” ¹⁵ When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

Hymn # 332 vv. 1-2

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

**1 Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing—You are my own.**

**2 Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story; Here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.**

Prayer

M: Lord God, by a sudden death you have called to yourself our beloved sister, Carol. We humble ourselves under your holy will and revere your ways which are not always our ways. Let your holy Word comfort those who feel sorrow because of this death. Strengthen them with the assurance that in all things you are still at work in truth and love. Teach us to number our days. Help us seek the things that are above, that we may at last appear before your presence in peace and joy. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Almighty God, we praise you for the great company of saints who have finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors. We remember especially our loved one, Carol, whom you have redeemed by the blood of your Son and received as your dear child through Holy Baptism. We thank you for giving Carol to us as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your compassion, comfort all who are sad in this hour. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: We praise you for your love in Christ, which sustains us in life and death. In our earthly sorrows, help us find strength in the fellowship of the church, joy in the forgiveness of sins, and hope in the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: You do not leave us comfortless but strengthen and care for us through your Word and sacrament. You give us family, friends, and neighbors to help when there is loneliness now and in the days to come. Brighten our future with a firm trust in your promises and care. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Remove our fears, and make us bold to pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us:

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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn # 332 vv. 3-4

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

**3) Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; Here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.**

**4) I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you And give you peace.**

+++++

Pastor: Paul Schupmann
Organist: Ruth Affeld

Songs are reprinted under Onelicense.net A-720071 and CCLI License 11520516* The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org * The Holy Bible: New International Version. (1984). (Is 41:1–16). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. Artwork from www.shutterstock.com, used with permission, license #176535422 or ChurchArt Pro, license #74051531.

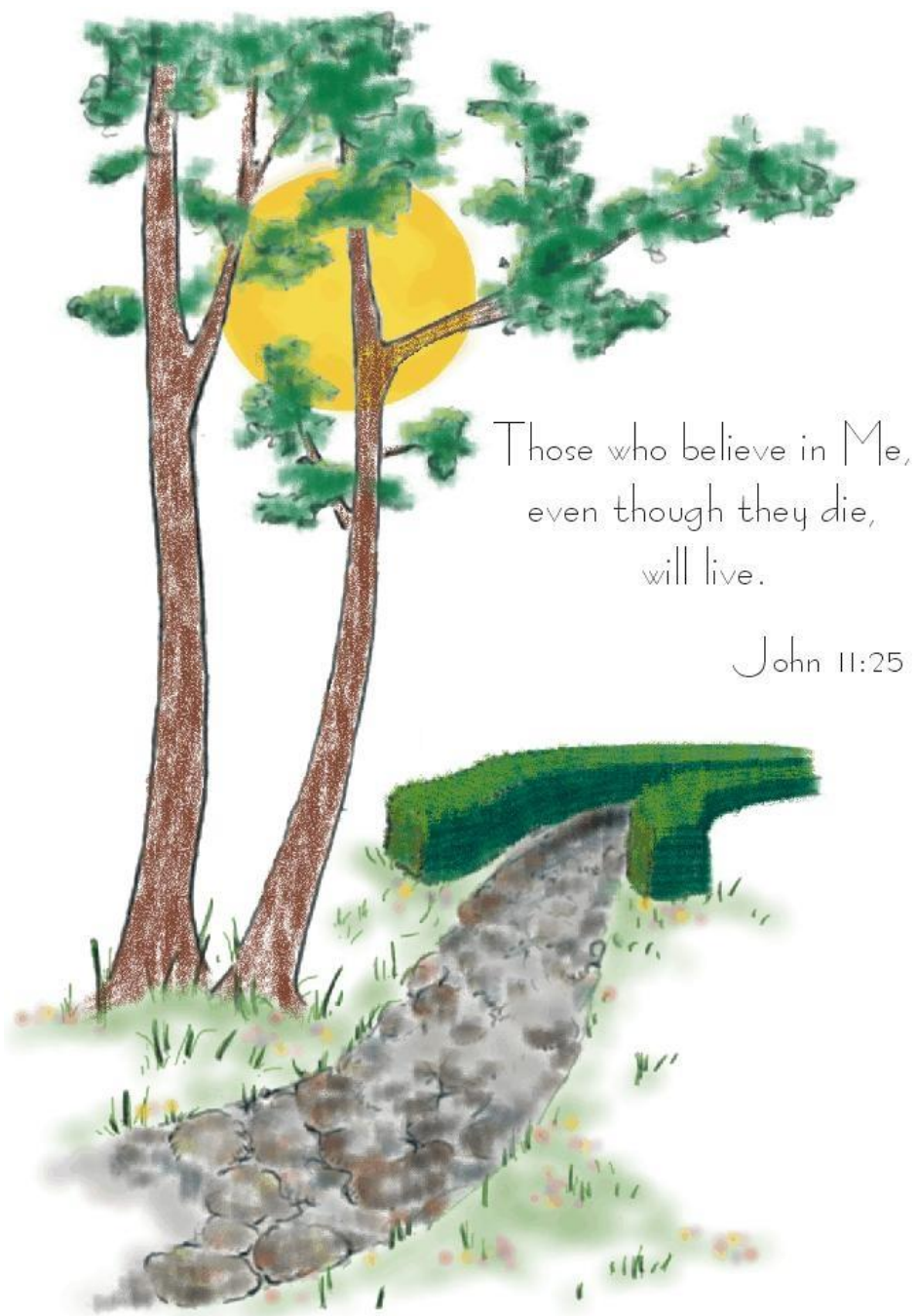
Carol J. Firari

May 12, 1960 - January 11, 2020

Carol J. Firari, age 59, of Lowell Township, was born on May 12, 1960 in Watertown, WI to Melvin and Mary Riege. She was confirmed May of 1974 and graduated from Watertown High School in 1978. Carol married her husband and best friend Frank Firari and was welcomed into the Firari family on October 7, 1989. Carol worked with special needs and autistic children in Dodge County. She also dedicated years to caring for her mother-in-law. Her favorite job was that of wife, mother and, most of all, grandmother. She deeply loved and was so proud of her family and they loved her. She will be missed dearly. Carol loved the outdoors and looked forward to spring time and the beauty it brought. One of her favorite hobbies was working in her flower garden and enjoying the many varieties of flowers she grew.

Carol is survived by her husband Frank; daughters, Chelsey (Brady) Bauer and Kara Firari (Taylor Feller); step-son, Jason (Dana) Huebner; grandchildren, Brendan & Cameron Bauer; step-grandchildren, Austyn & Bailey Huebner; her parents, Melvin & Mary Riege; her brother, Curt (Amy) Riege; brothers-in-law and sister-in-law: Rodney (Jean) Firari, Sheila Firari, Betty Bender, Raymond (Pete) Firari Jr., Michael (Julie) Firari, Brian (Sandy) Firari, Kenneth (Sara) Firari, Patty (Ray) Foslid, and Perry (Angie) Firari; her dear friend, Dawn Hiemstra; her fur friends, Buck & Scooter; and many nieces and nephews. Carol was preceded in death by her father-in-law & mother-in-law, Raymond "Chip" & Virginia Firari; and her brother-in-law Denny Bender.

There will be a memorial gathering at St. John's Lutheran Church- Salem Lowell Campus on Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 9:00 am to 11:45 am. A funeral service will follow at the church at 12:00 noon with the Rev. Paul Schupmann officiating. The Koepsell-Murray Funeral Home in Beaver Dam is caring for the family.



Those who believe in Me,
even though they die,
will live.

John 11:25