

**The Celebration of the Life
and Resurrection of
Phyllis Jane Watters & Robert Clarence Watters**



 **First Lutheran Church**
BOTHELL

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We, the community of First Lutheran Church of Bothell, proclaim the message that the grace of our Lord is infinitely inclusive and that everyone is welcome. We believe that Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation and as disciples of Christ seeking justice and reconciliation among all peoples, we at First Lutheran Church welcome all into the fullness of God's love. **We welcome everyone, without exception and regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or station in life.** We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God, and through grace, a child of God.

All are welcome at First Lutheran.

All are welcome to worship, to hear the Good News, to receive the sacraments, and to share in fellowship and service. As members of First Lutheran Church, we pledge ourselves and our congregation to exercise our faith in Christ, treasuring one another's similarities while embracing our God-given differences. We pledge that we will strive to live as a reconciling people, in our life together and in our outreach to the world.

Memorials may be made in Phyllis & Robert's names to:
First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

The Celebration of the Life and Resurrection of Phyllis Jane Watters and Robert Clarence Watters

December 6, 2021

9:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sister and brother Phyllis and Bob, to give thanks for their life, to commend them to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

GATHERING HYMN: *Day by Day* (ELW 790)



- 1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
- 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
- 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In their baptisms, Phyllis and Bob were clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, they shall be clothed with glory.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life;

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life;

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope;

We glorify you.

We praise you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our our sister and brother Phyllis and Bob. We thank you for giving them to us to know and to love as companions in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us 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.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *This Is My Song* (ELW 887)



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my - self I give you; let your will be done.

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE: *We take time to tell the stories of Phyllis and Bob, to honor their lives with our memories: Ron, Gary & Shelley Watters*

ANTHEM: *Evan Cox*

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 *Colleen Watters (Granddaughter)*

¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

²a time to be born, and a time to die;

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

³a time to kill, and a time to heal;

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

⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

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

⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose;

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

⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew;

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

⁸a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. ¹⁴I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

SECOND READING: Isaiah 43:1-3 *Roger Steinke*

¹But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

GOSPEL READING: John 14:1-7 Elizabeth Watters (Granddaughter)

¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going."
⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

SERMON

ANTHEM: *You Are Mine* (Richard Edmonds, Tenor)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM: *On Eagles Wings* (Richard Edmonds, Tenor)

COMMENDATION

Let us commend our sister and brother Phyllis and Bob to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence for reflection.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servants Phyllis and Bob. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming. Receive Phyllis and Bob into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen.

BLESSING

May the silence of the hills,
the joy of the winds,
the peace of the fields,
the music of the birds,
the fire of the sun,
the strength of the trees,
and the faith of a little child,
in all of which is God
go with you and be with you today and always.

Amen

SENDING HYMN: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (ELW 779)



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

SENDING

Go in peace, the Prince of Peace is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Phyllis Watters

If the amount of kindness and love a person shares with the world is a measure of success, then Phyllis Jane Watters has been successful beyond all measure. It is with sadness that we report that early the morning of September 29, 2021, she left this world. Yet, she had a strong spiritual faith and was in accord with nature, recognizing that "To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven."

Phyllis was born on October 5, 1924 in Sac County, Iowa, the daughter of Norwegian farmers, Anna and Oscar Williams. Firmly planted in Iowa's deep, rich and fertile topsoil, and nurtured by her hard working and loving parents, she grew into a beautiful, intelligent, independent young woman.

The first in her family to go beyond high school, she attended Buena Vista College in nearby Storm Lake. She obtained her associate degree in teaching, and after graduating, she taught 6th grade and Junior High for two years. Upon the end of World War II, she decided to return to school again, this time settling in at Iowa State University and working to complete her bachelor's degree in home economics.

At Iowa State, she met a lanky young man with an engaging smile. His name was Robert Watters. An engineering student, Robert (Bob) had served in the US Army. Like her, he had grown up on an Iowa farm and had learned the value of hard work, but he also knew how to have fun, and he made her laugh. In 1948, they were married.

In the years after their marriage, Phyllis and Bob had three children: two sons and a daughter. By the mid 1950's, they had moved from Iowa to Minnesota residing in St Paul. After a short stint in Indiana, they returned to the *Land of 10,000 Lakes* making White Bear Lake their home for many years. While living there Phyllis dedicated herself to her family and community. Her homemaking skills were beyond compare: She was an excellent chef, baker (oh, the desserts!), seamstress, gardener, accountant, and was as skilled in each of these disciplines as any professional in the field. Not only did her family reap the benefits of her labor, her community did as well. She volunteered for the PTA, as superintendent of the Sunday school at Christ the King Lutheran Church; served as a guide at the Nature Center, and was a Cub Scout and Girl Scout



leader. Whenever someone needed help, Phyllis was always the first to lend a hand.

Like seeds planted in Iowa soil, her family grew and thrived; And her community was improved by the love and sunshine that she brought to it.

Phyllis and Robert eventually moved from Minnesota to the Woodinville/ Bothell area in Washington State to spend time with their two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Colleen. Phyllis was their biggest fan, never missing a school function or a soccer match, and often finding a way to have the two girls over to the house for snacks and, oh yes, those desserts!

She always made sure that the entire family would gather at least once each year, no matter how far they might be spread apart. She cherished those times: catching up on the latest news, listening to stories, cheering on an impromptu wiffle ball game, joining together in wonderful meals (and desserts!), and laughing a lot.



Love begets love. The love and goodness that Phyllis shared with family was—and is—shared with others. One of her favorite biblical passages comes from a letter written by St. Paul to the nascent Christian church in Corinth. “Love bears all things,” he wrote, “believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” To Phyllis love was what connected the generations, like the cycle of seasons, or the yearly planting and harvesting of crops from the Iowa soil.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her mother Anna Williams (*nee* Axdahl), father Oscar Williams and brother Arnold Williams. She is survived by her husband of 73 years, Robert Clarence Watters; daughter Shelley Watters (Steven Malmberg); sons Ronald Watters (Katherine Daly) and Gary Watters (Susan *nee*

Callahan); and granddaughters Elizabeth and Colleen Watters.

(The family would like to recognize all of her friends at Woodland Terrace who provided wonderful companionship and made her life richer. A special thanks to the caretakers from Better Solutions for the warmth, kindness and love that they gave to Phyllis; to Blueberry Gardens for their compassionate care of Phyllis during her last few weeks; and to Richard Edmonds of First Lutheran Church of Bothell who often visited Phyllis, providing spiritual comfort, and even, on occasion, singing her a lullaby.)

Robert Clarence Watters

Robert Clarence Watters did not go gentle into the good night. After being diagnosed with advanced cancer, he left on his own terms and on his own time schedule, just the way he lived his life. He died on the morning of October 21, 2021, twenty-two days after his beloved wife Phyllis.

Robert (Bob) was born on April 4, 1926 in Ida County, Iowa, the son of William and Alma Watters. He and his two older brothers were raised on the Watters family farm near Holstein, Iowa. To get from the farm to school, he rode a pony, and sometimes in the winter, his father would take him by horse-drawn sleigh. In high school he played basketball for the plucky Holstein Pirates and he participated in school dramas.

In the summer of 1943, he started at Iowa State College in Ames. The stay was brief however. America was in the midst of World War II, and millions of young men were being called up. Volunteering to serve, Bob put college on hold and enlisted in the Army. After basic training, he attended officer training school, and as he liked to say, he rose to the lofty rank of second lieutenant.

Upon an honorable discharge in 1946, he was back once again in college pursuing a degree in engineering. Although his classes were challenging, he got high grades, thanks to his work ethic, his sharp mind and an unusually prodigious memory. He was gifted, but his modest nature wouldn't allow him to recognize it in any public manner. He did well and did it quietly without fuss.

As in high school, he was active in clubs and college social events and activities. One night he was attending a dance at the college Memorial Union, and had gathered up his courage to ask for a dance from the next woman who walked through the door.

Just then, stepping gaily over the threshold, was Phyllis Williams, the beautiful daughter of Norwegian farmers from Storm Lake. She accepted - and before the night was out, he was smitten. He walked her home and asked for another date. They fell in love and were married in 1948.

For Bob and Phyllis, fresh out of college and full of dreams and ambitions, the world was their oyster and everything was



possible. Bob started a business making cabinets while Phyllis taught school. He never lost his love for carpentry, or the sensation of holding wood in his hands, nor the creative process of forming it into something useful. No matter where they lived, he always had a woodshop, and through the years, he made many beautiful pieces of furniture from cabinets to desks to spinning wheels.

When their first child, a son, came along, Bob took a job at the Oliver Corporation. Later, he worked for the Lennox Furnace company. In 1952, an even better job opportunity presented itself: working for the 3M Company in St. Paul. When he turned in his resignation and announced that he would be working for 3M, his boss at Lennox asked him: "Why do you want to go to work for the 3M Company? They'll never amount to anything."

Never anything, indeed. He started at the 3M shop in St. Paul. Ambitious and a perfectionist, his talents didn't go unrecognized, and he quickly moved up the ladder at 3M. By the end of his career, he was part of the leadership of the Data Products Division. He managed two plants, one in Oklahoma and the other in California. Using company photographs, he memorized the names of each of the several hundred employees who worked in the two plants, and he could call each by name during his frequent visits to the plants.

Early in his career at 3M, two more children were born, a daughter and another son. Initially, Bob was based in St. Paul, but was transferred to Indiana where he worked at 3M's Hartford City plant. In 1960, the family moved back to Minnesota, residing in White Bear Lake which became their home for many years and where the children grew up.

Despite his heavy work schedule, he found time to involve himself in the White Bear Lake community and church affairs, particularly the nearby Christ the King Lutheran Church. Bob and Phyllis, with their three children in tow, had attended the first church service there when portions of the building still lacked windows and doors. He served as president of the first Board of Administration. Throughout their days in White Bear Lake, he continued to serve in various leadership roles at the church, and never thought twice about rolling up his sleeves to wash windows, sweep out closets and wax floors.

Upon retirement, he and Phyllis were living in nearby Mahtomedi, and for several years, they enjoyed traveling, roaming around the country in an RV, always stopping to visit their children - and always helping with a house project while there. In time, they moved to Woodinville, north of Seattle to be close to their two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Colleen. Bob, along with Phyllis, followed the two girls to school functions and soccer and basketball games, always with camera in hand.

As the grandchildren grew and went off to college, Bob and Phyllis settled into

a quiet life at Woodland Terrace, an independent living residence in Bothell, Washington where they made many friends. Eventually, in the summer of 2021, first Phyllis and then Bob fell ill.

Although both are gone from this life, they had a strong Christian faith and are together once more. We can imagine them, young again, Bob with his disarming smile, Phyllis beside him, lovely in a new dress that she had sewn herself, walking together, holding hands, just as if it were 1948 when everything was possible.

Bob was preceded in death by light of his life and wife of 73 years, Phyllis Watters (*nee Williams*), mother Alma Watters (*nee Soellner*), father William Watters, and brothers Vern and Paul Watters. He is survived by daughter Shelley Watters (Steven Malmberg); sons Ronald Watters (Katherine Daly) and Gary Watters (Susan *nee Callahan*); and granddaughters Elizabeth and Colleen Watters.

Assisting with Today's Service:

Presiding Pastor:

Rev. Tor K. Berg

Preacher / Soloist

Rev. Richard Edmonds (Retired)

Organ / Piano:

Lucy Kay Osborne

Altar Guild:

Donna Hillard

Usher:

Dan Bormann

Sound Tech:

Ann Bormann

Camera Tech:

David Osborne



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.