

A Celebration of the Life of **Deborah Jones**

September 12, 1944 - January 16, 2024



Swarthmore United Methodist Church
129 Park Avenue | Swarthmore, PA

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Visitation & Music Prelude 10:30am | Memorial at 11:00am
Reception in the Centennial Room immediately following the Service

Rev. Ali DeLeo, Senior Pastor
Matthew English, Director of Music
JohnPaul Beattie, Audio-Visual-Streaming Engineer

A Celebration of Life for Deborah Jones

PRELUDE

Matthew J. English, Director of Music

Abide With Me
His Eye Is on The Sparrow
In Thee Is Gladness
Memory (A. Webber)
I Want to Live (J. Denver)
Thy Word

WORDS OF GRACE AND GREETING

Rev. Ali DeLeo, Pastor

OPENING PRAYER

Adapted from a Wilson College prayer

INVOCATION (unison)

Eternal God, we praise You for the great company of those who have finished their course and now rest from their labor. We praise you for Deborah, a woman with enduring faith through the joys and trials of life, who you have already graciously received into your eternal and loving presence. As we remember her and celebrate her life, we thank you for the many ways Deborah continues to live in our hearts and minds. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

In The Garden

UMH #314

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

[Refrain] And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. *[Refrain]*

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. *[Refrain]*

PSALM READING

Psalm 119 (selected verses)

Sarah Sultzer

MUSIC TRIBUTE

I Bid You Goodnight (A. Neville)

Sam Michael

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 22:1-5

Cornelia John

HYMN*Hymn of Promise*

UMH #707

In the bulb, there is a flower...In the seed, an apple tree.
In cocoons, a hidden promise...Butterflies will soon be free.
In the cold and snow of winter...There's a spring that waits to be.
Unrevealed until its season...Something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence...Seeking word and melody.
There's a dawn in every darkness...Bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future...What it holds, a mystery.
Unrevealed until its season...Something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning...In our time, infinity.
In our doubt, there is believing...In our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection...At the last, a victory.
Unrevealed until its season...Something God alone can see.

***GOSPEL READING**

John 1:1-5 & 14 and 21:24-25

Rev. Ali DeLeo

HOMILY

Rev. Ali DeLeo

HYMN*How Great Thou Art*

UMH #77

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

[Refrain] Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: *[Refrain]*

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin. *[Refrain]*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim: my God, how great Thou art! *[Refrain]*

REMEMBRANCES

*At this time, those who have gathered are invited to share brief remembrances,
thanksgivings, and messages of comfort & support in memory of Deborah's life with us.*

PRAYER OF COMFORT & THANKSGIVING

Rev. Ali DeLeo

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
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.

*CLOSING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH #384

Love divine, all loves excelling...joy of heav'n to earth come down.
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling...all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion...pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation...enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit...into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit...let us find the promised rest.
Take away our love of sinning...Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning...set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver...let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never...nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing...serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing...glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then, Thy new creation...pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation...perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory...till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee...lost in wonder, love, and praise.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ali DeLeo

POSTLUDE

Andantino (F. Haydn)

Matthew English

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*Thank you for remembering & celebrating Deborah's life with us today.
All are invited to a reception in the Centennial Room.*

*Deborah's family suggests that memorial donations be made in Deborah's honor
to West Pittson Public Library or plant a tree in your local area.*