



A Celebration of Life

CLAIRE ELLEN CHARLEBOIS

October 8, 1934 – May 28, 2023

1:00 pm
July 9, 2023



I Made it Home

I just wanted to let you know that I made it home.
the journey wasn't an easy one, but it didn't take too long
Everything is so pretty here, so white, so fresh, so new.
I wish that you could close your eyes so you could see it, too.

Please try not to be sad for me.

Try to understand.

God is taking care of me.

I'm in the shelter of His hand.

Here there is no sadness and no sorrow and no pain.

Here there is no crying and I'll never hurt again.

Here it is so peaceful when all the angels sing.

I really have to go for now...I've just got to try my wings.

P.S. - I'll be the first face you see when you get here!

Author unknown

A Service of Thanksgiving and Praise to God in Loving Memory of

CLAIRE ELLEN CHARLEBOIS

October 8, 1934 – May 28, 2023

P Pastor
C Congregation

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor Lara

GATHERING

- P** 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, Claire, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Please stand.

HYMN

Abide with Me

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- 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, Claire. 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 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Please be seated.

MEMORIES

Nancy Moreno
I Made It Home (read by Sue Holm)
David W. Coons (read by Cindy Druschba)

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

READING

1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

GOSPEL READING

John 10:11-16

[Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

WORDS OF HOPE

Pastor Lara

MUSIC

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
CJ Tatum, solo

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

- P** Trusting in God's baptismal promises,
we affirm our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C** **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 power of 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

- P** God of mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**


THE LORD'S PRAYER

- 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 COMMENDATION

- P** Let us commend Claire Ellen Charlebois to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.
Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Claire.
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** **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and  give you peace.
- C** Amen.

HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

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SENDING

- P** Let us go forth in peace.
C In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Following the service,
all are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for a reception.

Participants

Presiding Minister The Reverend Lara Forbes
Director of Music Ministries/Organist Dr. Will Simpson
Audio/Video Sharon Gurtel, Susan Hegedus
Reception Support Team Lois Eckley, Joyce Nelson

Liturgy and Music:

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Abide with Me; ELW Hymn 629. Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847. Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889. Text and Music: public domain.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound; ELW Hymn 779. Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5. Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt. Text and Music: public domain.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing; ELW Hymn 543. Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008, alt. Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House; reprinted/streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-718073. All rights reserved. Music: public domain.

VIDEO and AUDIO RECORDING IN PROGRESS


This worship service is being livestreamed and recorded to YouTube,
and video and audio recording is currently in progress.
It is possible that video footage and/or audio conversations of worshipers may appear
on the YouTube livestream/recording.



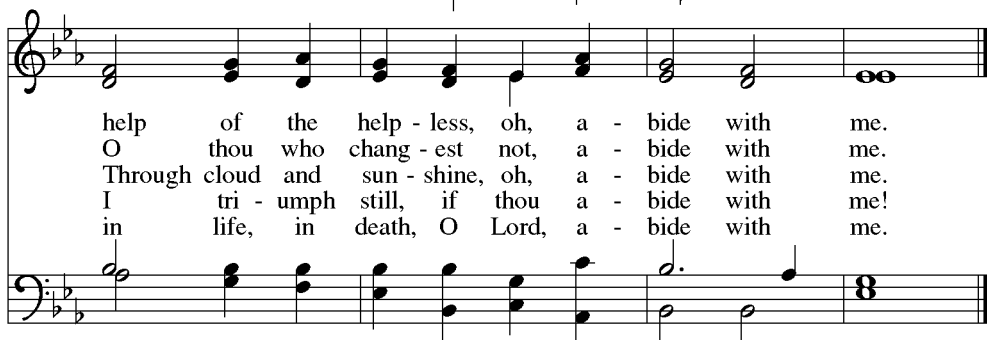
1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



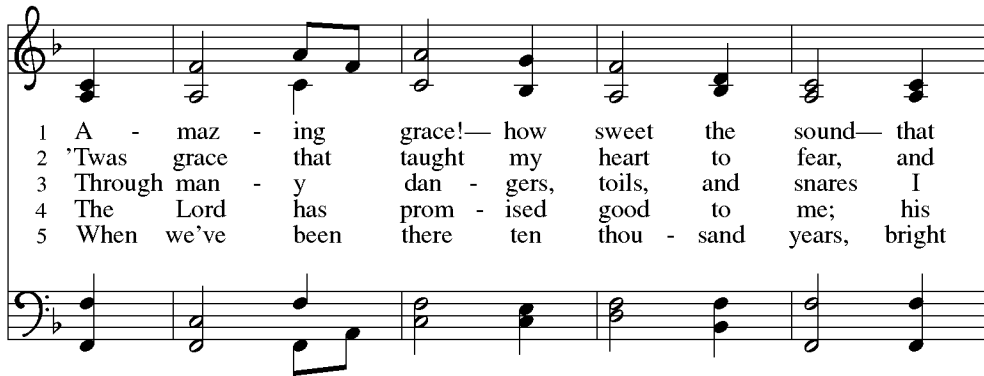
The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



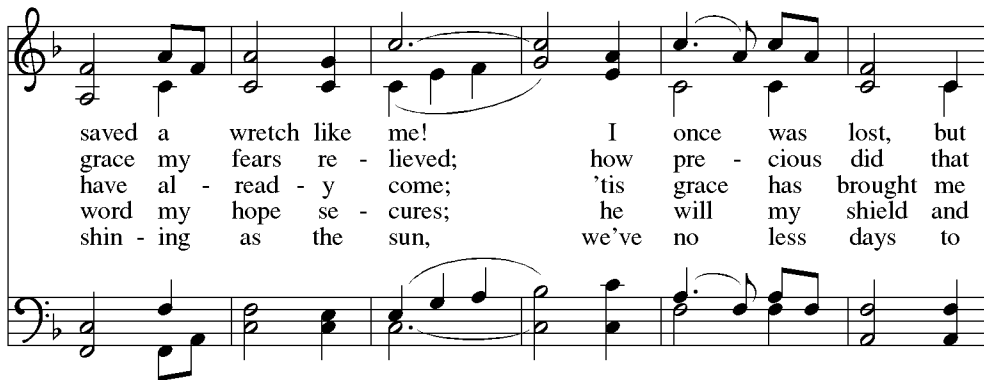
When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.



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.



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

CLAIRE CHARLEBOIS

Claire Ellen Lanning was born at home in Oxford, Kansas to Irvyn “Jack” and Daisy (Siemer) Lanning at 10:30 in the evening of October 8, 1934. She weighed in at about 8 pounds. Claire spent her formative years in Oxford before moving with her mom, dad, and older brother Barney to the city of Wichita, Kansas in the fall of 1943. She was 9. Claire loved going to school in Wichita. She attended Washington Elementary and Central Intermediary before graduating high school in 1952. It was at school she met her best friend Carolee Jenisch (Houston) when they were 13 years of age, and they remained best friends until Claire passed away at age 88.

Claire and her first husband Harry Spencer were married in Kansas in 1954. However, the young couple soon made their way to the Northwest where they first settled in the Eastgate area of Bellevue, Washington. A year later they made their home in Kirkland. Harry and Claire had three children together before divorcing in 1974.

Claire worked for See’s Candies for twenty years, primarily at their store located in downtown Bellevue. She loved Sees chocolate and has gotten several family members hooked on it as well.

Ronald “Charlie” Charlebois came into Claire’s life on November 9, 1991. They fell in love and were married the following August 1. Charlie and Claire were very happy together. Charlie had three daughters who accepted Claire as family, and she soon grew to love them as daughters.

In December 1994 Claire and Charlie left Washington, moving back to Kansas. They chose the small town of Viola where she and Charlie were active volunteers in many community projects. They loved children so Claire became the Viola Township librarian which had story time for kids. She and Charlie ran a preschool literacy program, and because Charlie loved hunting, they also became involved in a Young Hunter Safety program which Claire managed for several years.

While in Viola, Claire met two younger women, Mellissa Doffing and Jeana Bender, who became as Claire put it “her illegally adopted daughters”. After Charlie passed away on April 18, 2012, Mellissa and Jeana became all the more important to Claire, even helping her through several serious health crises. Her family in Washington will be eternally grateful to Mellissa and Jeana for the devotion shown to their mom.

(continued)

By now Claire had come to the conclusion that she needed to be closer to family as she aged. So, in 2018 she once again moved to the Northwest. As you know, Claire talked to anyone and everyone when out in the community. One of the new friends she met was C.J. They went on many adventures around the Kirkland area. C.J. was the one who introduced her to Saint Andrew's Church which Claire found to be so accepting and kind that she decided to become a member. She so enjoyed both the church services and activities at Saint Andrew's.

Claire had family scattered throughout the West and Midwest and too many friends to name them here. But she wanted all of them to know that she loved each and every one of them. However, Claire did have a group of people who were a part of her support system. Besides those already mentioned were Dr. Mike, first her chiropractor in Wichita and then dear friend, who thought of Claire as being like a mother to him. Rita, Dino and Dave in Kansas who she stayed in touch with by phone. Dave and Claire were prayer partners and rarely missed a week without holding others up to God. If you knew Claire, your name was undoubtedly on her prayer list at some point. Claire's cousin Anita Siemer owns a bookstore in the Wichita area and kept Claire well supplied with reading material. About five years ago Claire reconnected with her cousin Nancy Moreno who lives in Oregon. Through this relationship she was also able to either connect or reconnect with other family members on the Lanning side of her family. She visited Nancy in Oregon in 2018 and took part in a Lanning family reunion on the Oregon coast in 2019 where she met new family members and reconnected with several that she had not seen since she was a child. In 2021, Nancy took Claire on a road trip to visit Nancy's sister Dee Lanning and her family in Spokane. She also put Claire in touch with their oldest cousin Dixie Weese who now lives in Texas. They so enjoyed sharing memories and catching up.

Claire's youngest son Jay Spencer preceded her in death. She is survived by her son Jeffrey "Stuart" Spencer, daughter Jane Susan Spencer, two nephews Bruce and Barney "Jack" Lanning; stepdaughters Cindy Druschba (John), Sue Holm, and Carol Stiles (Mark); seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The family thanks you for joining us in celebrating the life of this one-of-a-kind gal.



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