



# A Celebration of Life

MARK RICHARD NIEMAN

September 9, 1969 – June 30, 2023

NATASHA JOY NIEMAN

April 1, 1999 – June 30, 2023

3:00 pm  
August 27, 2023



# NATASHA NIEMAN

Natasha Joy Nieman was born on a sunny spring morning, April 1, 1999, in Bellevue, Washington to parents Mark and Andrea Nieman. As Natasha grew, she was an inquisitive, curious and intelligent child. Natasha tested into the highly capable program for her 4th grade year and continued to excel in her studies through her graduation from Baylor University in 2023.

Natasha graduated Kentridge High School with honors in 2017. She was accepted into the Human Services program at Western Washington University in the Fall of 2017. Natasha worked as a resident dorm assistant at Western and mentored college students in the dorms. Natasha graduated Western in May 2019 with honors and her Bachelor of Arts in Human Services.

Natasha decided to take a break from college studies to go on youth mission to Europe for 6 months in January 2020 and planned to travel throughout Europe, but due to covid restrictions that went into place, she remained in France for the duration of the trip. She enjoyed her time exploring France with other youth on mission.

Natasha returned home from France to Washington in June 2020 and took a position with Alaska Christian College as a Resident Supervisor for the 2020/2021 school year in Soldotna, Alaska. This position was instrumental in Natasha choosing student life as her career path.

Natasha was accepted at Baylor University in Waco, Texas for the 2021 school year to pursue her Master's Degree in Higher Education while interning 20 hours a week serving international students in the Global Engagement studies program.

Natasha began applying to colleges to pursue a Residential Student Supervisor position in April 2023 and was offered jobs at various colleges in Washington state and Texas. She chose a Residential Housing Supervisor position in Stevenson South Hall at Washington State University in April 2023 and had planned to start her career there serving students in July 2023. Natasha graduated Baylor with honors in May 2023.

Natasha was a very loving, generous and accepting person. She had a heart for serving those in need of mentorship and guidance. She was diligent about checking in with friends and family from wherever she happened to be in the world. Natasha consistently made a positive difference in the lives of others.

Natasha passed away in a car accident the afternoon of June 30, 2023, along with her father Mark on the way to Washington State University to set up her apartment for her position which was to start July 11th.

Natasha loved spending time with her family and friends and her college sweetheart Quincy, Travel, Hiking, Music, Concerts, Art, and Disneyland. Natasha was loved by many and her light will shine forever.

# MARK NIEMAN

Mark Richard Nieman was born September 9, 1969 in Burien, Washington to parents Richard Nieman and Stella Nieman. He had two older sisters, Phyllis and Diane. From an early age, Mark proved to be extremely intelligent and had an uncanny ability to learn about the world around him and how things worked. Family legend says he once took apart an alarm clock and put it back together when he was 3.

Mark graduated from Newport High School in 1988 and was accepted into Washington State University. He took on several activities such as marching band where he played trombone, and was on the WSU fencing team. He graduated from WSU in 1993 with a degree in mechanical engineering and a minor in math. Mark met his future wife Andrea Cole in 1993 and the couple was married in 1995. They had two daughters, Natasha born April 1, 1999, and Noelle, Born May 29, 2003. Mark and Andrea were married for 20 years.

Mark began his engineering career at Abacus Consulting in Seattle, where he worked for 5 years before transferring to the McKinstry Engineering Firm in Seattle where he worked for nearly 26 years. Mark was very passionate about his job and eager to lead his teams to create the most sustainable and effective future for energy consumption. Mark worked on numerous engineering projects in Washington state.

Mark was an endlessly selfless, humble, caring, and hard-working person. He never bragged about his intelligence, instead using his knowledge to quietly benefit others. He would do anything for his family and provided for them with a big smile, always striving to do the very best for his loved ones. No matter the issue, if an appliance needed to be fixed or mouths needed to be fed, Mark would jump at the chance to help.

Mark passed away in a car accident on June 30, 2023 along with his daughter Natasha on the way to Washington State University to set up Natasha's new apartment. She had received a job at the college as a resident supervisor and would have started on July 11th.

Mark had a slew of passions, collections, and hobbies, including but not limited to, LEGO, listening to a wide array of musical genres, concerts, Japanese culture, bass guitar, puzzles of all kinds, space exploration, video games, tracking time, and collecting calendars. His favorite movies were Interstellar, the John Wick franchise, Bladerunner 2049, and Buckaroo Banzai. His favorite video games were Fallout 4, Persona 5, and Vampire Survivors. He absolutely loved the color blue, and his favorite animals were hamsters and otters. Mark is deeply loved and missed by everyone he impacted and will never be forgotten.

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

**MARK RICHARD NIEMAN**

September 9, 1969 – June 30, 2023

**NATASHA JOY NIEMAN**

April 1, 1999 – June 30, 2023

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**P** Pastor  
**A** Assisting Minister  
**R** Reader  
**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 beloveds in Christ, Natasha and Mark, to give thanks for their lives, to commend them to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

*Please stand.*

## ***HYMN***

***Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

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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** O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother in Christ, Mark, and our sister in Christ, Natasha. 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.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**MEMORIES**

Ash Awad  
Kate Lydin-Hall  
Krista Gunstone

**MUSIC**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
Christina Siemens, solo

[Thomas Dorsey]

**PSALM 23**

Kate Lydin-Hall

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I 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 mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

my whole life long.

**READING**Philippians 4:4-7  
Andrew Gunstone

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**R** Word of God.**C** Word of Life.**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL****R** The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**C** Glory to you, O Lord.**GOSPEL READING**John 14:1-6, 25-57  
Eric Appesland

[Jesus said,] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In 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? And 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

**R** The Gospel of the Lord.**C** Praise to you, O Christ.**WORDS OF COMFORT AND HOPE**

Pastor Lara

*Please stand.***HYMN***Abide With Me*

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## ***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***

Apostles' Creed

**A** 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***

**A** God of mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

## ***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

[Malotte]

Christina Siemens, solo

## ***THE COMMENDATIONS***

**P** Let us commend Natasha Joy Nieman to the mercy of God,  
our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Natasha.  
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.**

**P** Let us commend Mark Richard Nieman to the mercy of God,  
our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Mark.  
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb  
of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him 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**

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

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### **SENDING**

**P** Let us go forth in peace.

**C** In the name of Christ. Amen.

### **POSTLUDE**

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

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### **Liturgy and Music:**

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*The Lord's Prayer*. Music: Albert Hay Malotte; © 1935 by G. Schirmer, Inc. All rights reserved. Text: 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 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no  
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-  
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in  
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.  
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

*Refrain*



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*; ELW Hymn 733.

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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.

*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.

## Participants

*Presiding Minister* The Reverend Lara Forbes

*Assisting Minister* Jean Wahlstrom

*Director of Music Ministries/Organist* Dr. Will Simpson

*Soloist* Christina Siemens

*Readers* Kate Lydin-Hall

Andrew Gunstone

Eric Appesland

*Memories* Krista Gunstone

Kate Lydin-Hall

Ash Awad

*Ushers* John Nelson, Bill Brueggemann,

Jean Wahlstrom

*Audio/Video* Peter Cornwell, Kurt Lutterman

*Reception Support Team* Janell Erickson, Jay Baxter,

Lois Eckley, Mikel Oswalt

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The family suggests that donations in Mark's memory be directed to

Directed scholarship fund in memory of Mark Nieman:

AEE Foundation (Association of Energy Engineers Foundation)

3168 Mercer University Drive

Atlanta, GA 30341

<https://aeefoundation.org/>

The family suggests that donations in Natasha's memory be directed to:

Natasha Nieman Scholarship Fund

Alaska Christian College

35109 Royal Place

Soldotna, AK 99669

<https://alaskacc.kindful.com/?campaign=1267533>



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