

**Celebration of Life
for
Elizabeth "Betty" Dyson
March 2, 1924 – June 8, 2023**



**Coventry Chapel, Episcopal Homes
June 22, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.**

Welcome to Coventry Chapel. All are welcome here.

Welcome



Opening Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father; thine own may I be;
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**
- 3 High King of heaven, when victory is won,
may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**



Text: Irish, c. 700; verified by Mary Elizabeth Byrne, d. 1931; tr. Eleanor H. Hull, d. 1935. Music: SLANE, Irish ballad. From 1982 Hymnal, #488.

Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.



Reading: "The Peace of Wild Things"

By Wendell Berry

Read by Mark Dyson, grandson

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



Responsive Reading

A Litany of Remembrance

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, **we remember her.**
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, **we remember her.**
In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, **we remember her.**
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, **we remember her.**
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, **we remember her.**
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, **we remember her.**
When we are weary and in need of strength, **we remember her.**
When we are lost and sick at heart, **we remember her.**
When we have joys we yearn to share, **we remember her.**
So long as we live, she too shall live,
For she is now a part of us, as we remember her.

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Reading: On The Death of the Beloved by John O'Donohue

Read by Will Dyson, grandson

Though we need to weep your loss,
You dwell in that safe place in our hearts
Where no storm on night or pain can reach you.

We look toward each other no longer
From the old distance of our names;
Now you dwell inside the rhythm of breath,
As close to us as we are to ourselves.

Let us not look for you only in memory,
Where we would grow lonely without you.
You would want us to find you in presence,
Besides us when beauty brightens,
When kindness glows
And music echoes eternal tones.

When orchids brighten the earth,
Darkest winter has turned to spring;
May this dark grief flower with hope
In every heart that loves you.

May you continue to inspire us:
To enter each day with a generous heart.
To serve the call of courage and love
Until we see your beautiful face again
In that land where there is no more separation,
Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,
And where we will never lose you again.

Excerpted from To Blessing the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings

Reflection

The Rev. Jennifer Allred

Remembrances from Betty's children

Read by Ben Roseth, grandson



Reading: "It Is Night" Read by Heather Williamson, granddaughter

It is night.

The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of the holy.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done
let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our
own lives
rest.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

adapted from the Book of Common Prayer



Closing Prayer

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world lies hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

Closing Hymn

For The Beauty Of The Earth

For the beauty of the earth
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth,
over and around us lies,

Refrain Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

Refrain Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

Refrain Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of thine,
to the world so freely given,
faith and hope and love divine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven.

Refrain Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

Text: Folliot Sandford Pierpont, d. 1917. Music: DIX by Conrad Kocher, d. 1872.



Elizabeth "Betty" Dyson

Passed away at the age of 99 on June 8, 2023 at Episcopal Homes in St. Paul, Minnesota. Betty was born on March 2, 1924 in Miraj, India, where her parents were Presbyterian missionaries. She attended Kodaikanal International School in Tamal Nadu and Westtown School in West Chester, Pennsylvania. She received her BA from Bryn Mawr College in 1945. In July 1946, Betty married Burt Dyson in Philadelphia. Together with her family, Betty lived and worked in many places: Iran, Lebanon, Philadelphia, central Wisconsin, Chicago and Springfield, Illinois, Indianapolis and St. Paul. Wherever she was Betty engaged with the community. She was active in the League of Women Voters. Beginning in 1970, she was involved with the Institute of Cultural Affairs, an organization embracing modern Christian theology and focusing on community development. In 1987 Betty became interested in the intersection of Christianity and ecology, and this remained her focus for the rest of her life. Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Burt, her parents and siblings. She is survived by her children and their spouses - Peter (Susan) Dyson, David Dyson and Susanne Hollingsworth, Katherine (Robert) Roseth, Frank Dyson, and Deborah Dyson, her grandchildren and their spouses - Will Dyson and Valerie Blassey, Katherine Dyson and Nick Perl, Heather (Matthew) Williamson, Mark Dyson and Edyn Jessup, and Ben (Viviana Venegas) Roseth, six great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews and many friends around the world. A memorial service for Betty will be held at Episcopal Homes Coventry Chapel, 1840 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN on June 22 at 10:30am. In lieu of flowers, consider a gift to the Episcopal Homes Foundation or an environmental organization of your choice.





Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

-Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Officiant: The Rev. Jennifer Allred

Musician: Larry Wilson

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