

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF
ROBERTA K. SMITH
SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

Prelude

Nutmeg String Trio

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

CH56

Psalter

Psalm 121

**I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved, he who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.
The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and for evermore.**

Musical Reflection

Nocturne in C Sharp Minor (No. 20)
Nathaniel Baker, piano

Frederic Chopin

Scripture

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain, in the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those who look through the windows see dimly; when the doors on the street are shut, and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and the caper bud falls; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about the streets; before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher; all is vanity.

Musical Reflection

Simple Gifts
Julie Rumbold, mezzo soprano; Nathaniel Baker, piano

Aaron Copland

Reflection

Musical Reflection

Happy Enough
from Scenes from Childhood, Opus 15
Nathaniel Baker, piano

Robert Shumann

Words of Remembrance

Musical Reflection

The Poet Speaks
from Scenes from Childhood, Opus 15
Nathaniel Baker, piano

Robert Shumann

Reading

i thank You God for most this amazing day
River LeFebvre

e.e. cummings

i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings:and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

Musical Reflection

Bright Morning Stars
First Church Choir

Kentucky Folk Hymn

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

Let us pray.
Gracious and loving God,
we thank you for all the blessings of life,
for watching over us in death,
and for all the ways in which we come to know your love.
We thank you for those who share our lives:
for families and loved ones;
for care-givers and companions;
for friends and neighbors.
Especially today, we thank you for Roberta.
We praise you for the gift of her life:
for all in her that was generous and kind;
for the love she gave and received;
for all that lives on through those who knew and loved her.
We thank you that for Roberta death is past, pain is ended,
and she has entered into the joy of your presence.
Comforting and caring God,
we pray for the family and friends of Roberta,

and for all who grieve this loss.
May they know the comfort of your love,
through the support of others
and the peace of your presence.
And guide us all as we seek to offer support and care,
healing and hope to those who feel this loss.
Strong and tender God,
in Jesus, you share the joy and sorrow of this life,
and so we pray also today
for all others who know suffering and pain
Grant us all a vision of your purpose
in our life and work together,
that we may bear witness to the hope
which is in Jesus Christ,
in life, in death, and in life beyond death. Amen.

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

***Hymn**

Abide With Me

CH636

***Commendation and Benediction**

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind;
and we are mortal, formed of the earth,
and to earth shall we return.
For so did you ordain when you created me,
saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."
All of us go down to the dust;
yet even at the grave we make our song:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior,
we commend your servant Roberta.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you,
a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a child 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. Amen.

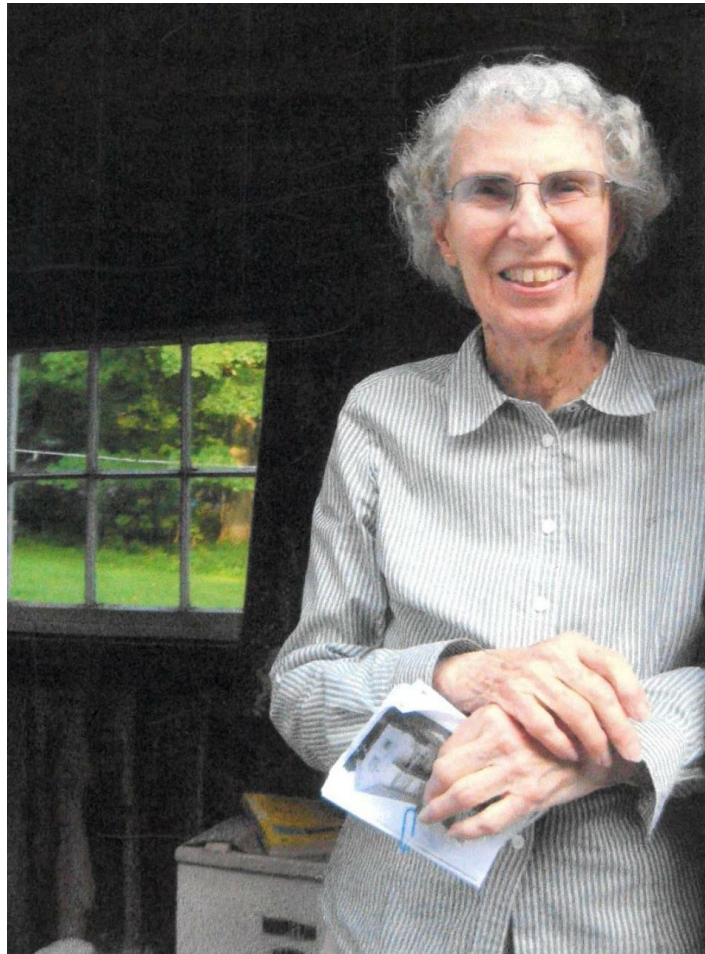
May God bless you and keep you.
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Postlude

Child Falling Asleep
from Scenes from Childhood, Opus 15
Nutmeg String Trio

Robert Shumann



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