

Christian Funeral Service
for
Millie A. Connelly
December 1, 1931—September 29, 2020



October 16, 2020
St. John's Lutheran Church
Summit, New Jersey

Millie A. Connelly

Born

December 1, 1931
Summit, New Jersey

Baptized

Millie Anna Kuchta
December 25, 1931
St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit, New Jersey
By The Rev. W. S. Hinman

Confirmed

March 25, 1945
St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit, New Jersey
By The Rev. W. S. Hinman

Married

Charles T. Connelly
November 29, 1952
St. Teresa of Avila Church, Summit, New Jersey

Died

September 29, 2020
Springfield, New Jersey

Family

Husband: Charles T. Connelly

Children:

Charles Jr. (1954–2002)
Frances and Vaughn Rice
Susan and Dominick Colombo
George and Beth Connelly

Grandchildren:

Clayton Reilly, Benjamin Frazier, Marie Colombo,
Rebecca Connelly, Rachel Frazier

Great-Grandchild:

Abigail Hughes

Funeral and Interment

Garden of the Resurrected
St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit, New Jersey



GATHERING MUSIC Setting of “Rock of Ages”

By John Carter (b. 1930)

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.*

*While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.*

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

Setting of “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

By John Carter

*While life’s dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow’s tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.*

*When ends life’s transient dream, when death’s cold, sullen stream shall o’er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love fear and distrust remove; oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!*

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Setting of “I Know that My Redeemer Lives

By Anne Krentz Organ (b. 1960)

Courtney Rothman, flute

*He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.*

*He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.*

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

Please stand.

GATHERING

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 Millie, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made Heaven and Earth.

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord;

So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In her baptism, Millie was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, she shall be clothed with glory.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you. **We glorify you.**

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you. **We praise you.**

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you. **We worship you.**

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever. **Amen.**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Millie. 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. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

GATHERING HYMN Setting of "Amazing Grace"
Stephanie Rothman, trumpet

By John Carter

*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!*

*I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.

FIRST READING Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

²a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

Spoken responsively

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil:

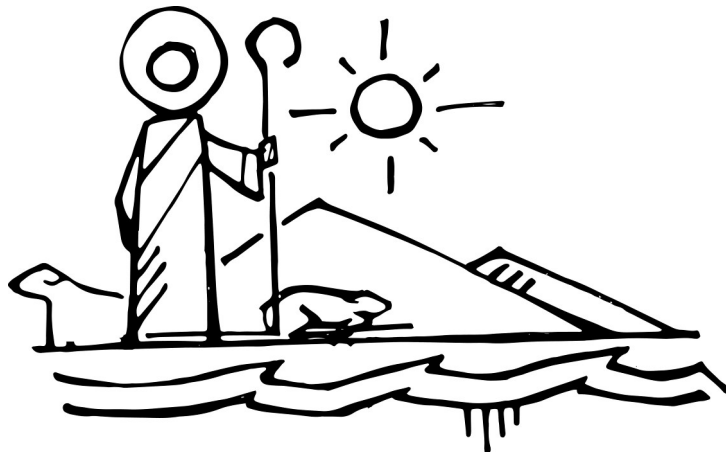
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

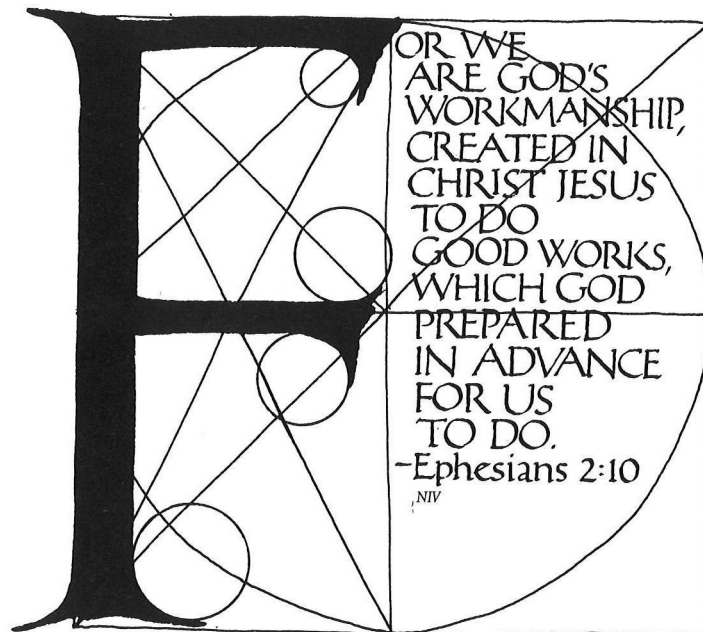


SECOND READING Ephesians 2:1–12

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

¹¹So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” — a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands — ¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**



Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. O God, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1–12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³”Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴”Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵”Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶”Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷”Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸”Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹”Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰”Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹”Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

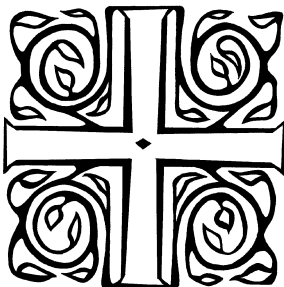
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore and The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Silence for reflection follows.



*Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

HYMN OF THE DAY Setting of "Here I Am, Lord"

By John Carter

*"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"*

Refrain

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" Refrain*

*"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" Refrain*

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946
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Please stand.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

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 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

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.



GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead, and in whom our hope of resurrection dawns.

The sting of death has been removed by the glorious promise of his risen life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

Communion will be in one kind. The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands.

Please keep your mask on until returning to your seat. Once seated, you may eat the wafer.

COMMUNION MUSIC Setting of "Jesus, Loves Me"

By David Angerman (b. 1955)

*Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.*

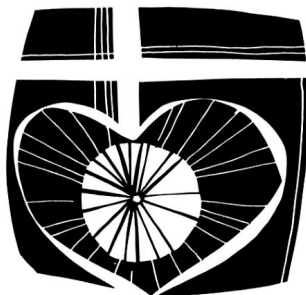
Refrain

*Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. Refrain*

*Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. Refrain*

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.



COMMUNION MUSIC Setting of “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

By Phillip Keveren (b. 1961)

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear—
all because we do not carry
ev’rything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness—
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he’ll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.*

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction and a pledge of our inheritance of life eternal where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Millie to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept

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

SENDING HYMN Setting of "A Mighty Fortress"

By John Carter

*A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.*

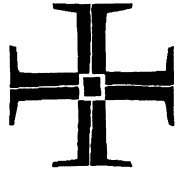
*No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.*

*God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!*

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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MY REFUGE
AND MY FORTRESS,
MY GOD,
IN WHOM I TRUST



COMMITTAL

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth. *Job 19:25*

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. *Colossians 3:1-4*

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” *John 11:25-26a*

Grace and peace from our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

Let us pray. Holy God, holy and powerful, by the death and burial of Jesus your anointed, you have destroyed the power of death and made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our sister Millie, whose body we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints. And at the last, O God, raise her up to share with all the faithful the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A reading from Revelation:

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” *Revelation 7:15-17*

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our sister Millie, and we commit her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless her and keep her. The Lord’s face shine on her with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon her with favor and † give her peace. **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace.

POSTLUDE Setting of "How Great Thou Art"

By Jerry Ray (b. 20th C.)



Millie's Confirmation Verse

Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God
you have an everlasting rock.

Isaiah 26:4

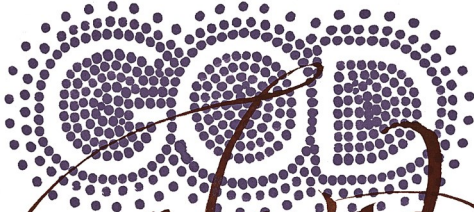


Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.
This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
“Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You’d walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don’t understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me.”

He whispered, “My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.”



so loved
THE WORLD
THAT
he gave
his only Son
SO THAT
EVERYONE
WHO
believes in him
WILL NOT
BUT perish
HAVE
eternal life

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