

SERVICE OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION

for **Peggy Jean (Allison) Weatherston**

at Leavitt's Aultorest Memorial Park

Ogden, UT, on May 6, 2020

GREETING--Rev. Kim James, First United Methodist Church

Friends, we have gathered here to praise God and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the life of Peggy Weatherston. We come together in grief, acknowledging our human loss. May God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow we may find hope, and in death we may find resurrection.

Dying, Christ destroyed our death. Rising Christ restored our life. Christ will come again in glory.

As in baptism Peggy put on Christ,

so in Christ may Peggy be clothed with glory.

Here and now, dear friends, we are God's children.

What we shall be has not yet been revealed;

but we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him,

for we shall see God as God is.

Those who have this hope purify themselves as Christ is pure.

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I hold the keys of life and death. Because I live, you shall live also.

PRAYER

Let us pray:

God, we have come together today to remember and thank you for Peggy's life. We are also here to renew our faith in you who have promised to be with us in life and in death. Give to us now your grace, that as we shrink before the mystery of death, we may see the light of eternity. Speak to us once more your message of life in death, of hope even in sorrow. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SONG: "How Great Thou Art"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 40:1, 6, 8, 11, 28-31

John 14:1-3

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Revelation 21:1-5

PEGGY'S STORY

Peggy Jean Weatherston was born on May 4, 1927, in Chanute, Kansas. Her parents were Ellis J. and Florence Morgan Allison. Peggy had an older sister named Earlene. Because Earlene was handicapped, she and Peggy were in the same grade in school. The girls had two younger brothers named Bob and E.J. (Ellis Jay). Peggy's mom was a housewife. Peggy's dad was a city manager for a variety of communities over the years. So the Allison family lived not only in Chanute, but also Topeka and Salina, Kansas.

During her childhood, Peggy's family attended Methodist churches. Peggy loved to sing, and she learned to play the piano. She also played girls softball. After Peggy graduated from high school, she attended college at the Methodist-related Kansas Wesleyan University right there in Salina. She graduated in 1949 with a bachelor's degree in business, and began her successful career in accounting.

The reason Peggy moved to Utah was that her father was hired as the first-ever city manager of Ogden. By then, her brothers were grown and stayed in Kansas. But Peggy moved here with her parents and sister Earlene. The Allison family quickly began attending Ogden's First Methodist Church, which Peggy joined on March 9, 1952.

By then, Peggy was almost 25 years old, and she was working as an accountant for First Security Bank. Over time, Peggy's boss decided to play matchmaker. He introduced her to his friend Earl Weatherston. Earl was a machinist and later became a manufacturing engineer. Earl had been married previously and had two children, Jaren and DaLane, who lived with their mother in Texas.

Despite the fact that Earl was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and Peggy was a Methodist, the

matchup worked. Earl and Peggy agreed that they could each continue with their own faith practices and respect the other's. Earl and Peggy were married in 1954. Over the years, they made their home in three different South Ogden houses, all within a mile of each other.

Peggy continued working at First Security Bank until her first child was born. Then Jean was followed exactly one-year-to-the-day by the birth of Carol. Peggy raised the girls almost like twins, often dressing them alike. As the girls grew in their language abilities, Peggy instructed them to use correct grammar, as was important "in proper society." As a parent, Peggy always managed a steady and cool demeanor. She never got angry and rarely expressed any public displays of affection. But her daughters always knew they were loved.

Peggy approached homemaking much like her accounting work. She was very precise. When she sewed clothes for the girls, she used a lot of pins to make sure her seams were very straight. When she cooked, Peggy measured every ingredient meticulously. When she set the table for dinner, Peggy made sure each knife, spoon, and fork was in its proper place. Every evening, when Earl came home from work, Peggy had supper on the table at exactly 5:10 p.m. A salad, a main course, and a dessert were always ready. Because her dad had been a city manager, and was thus involved in politics and frequently entertaining guests, Peggy had learned early in her life to maintain a certain formality in regard to the family dinner.

Sunday evenings were a little different, however. After the Weatherston family had participated in their two different churches earlier in the day, those Sunday family nights were a time to let loose and kick back. Instead of gathering around the properly-set dining table, they enjoyed grilled cheese sandwiches, chocolate milkshakes, and popcorn in front of the TV while they watched the Carol Burnett Show or played games.

When Jean and Carol were young, Peggy took them to the Methodist Church and Sunday School. When the girls got into elementary school, they started attending the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints with Earl. Peggy allowed her daughters to be baptized in the Mormon faith, but her desire for

formality came through as she insisted that the baptisms be officiated, not just by a relative, but by a bishop.

For her own part, Peggy continued faithfully to attend the Methodist Church. By then, her father had died, but Peggy was regularly present at the church with her mother and sister, and she sang in the church choir. Earl and the girls always came to Peggy's Methodist Church for holiday services like Christmas Eve and Easter and any other special choir events. The Weatherstons enjoyed Methodist family camp every summer, and Peggy saw to it that the girls attended the annual Methodist Vacation Bible School. Conversely, Peggy also attended special events at the LDS ward and encouraged her daughters to participate fully in the faith they had chosen.

Peggy also gave her daughters the opportunity to take piano lessons. Apparently that happened after the Weatherstons had been on a trip through Las Vegas and had stopped for dinner. Peggy might not normally have been tempted to gamble, but the dinner line forced them to stand and wait, and the Keno machines were right there. So Peggy gave it a try and won big. She used her gambling windfall to buy a piano.

When Jean and Carol were in high school, Peggy decided to go back to work. She did accounting for Av-Mat, an aviation materials management company that had its offices near the Ogden airport. She was part of the executive management team.

Peggy retired in the late 80s at about the same time that Earl turned 65 and he retired. They wanted to have the freedom to travel. Already, when their girls were young, the family had enjoyed many road trips, covering all the continental states west of the Mississippi and into Mexico. Sometimes they drove in their car. Other trips were done in their camper, and they stayed in campgrounds. They also had a boat that the family took on annual summer trips to Lake Powell, Bear Lake, and Flaming Gorge. On their own, Peggy and Earl traveled to Hawaii, toured in Europe, and a cruised to Alaska. Early in their retirement, they bought a camper van and caravanned with two other couples. Their three-month road trip circled north, east, south, and west around the United States. For some years, Earl and Peggy wintered in Arizona, renting in a mobile home park.

Peggy had other activities that engaged her time before and after retirement. She served on the church's Finance Committee and as volunteer Treasurer and later Finance Secretary for many years. Much of that was in the years before computers, when all the record-keeping was done by hand. Peggy's accounting skills were a great gift to the church, and she happily served that way until she was about 80 years old.

Peggy was also very active in the Beta Sigma Phi International Sorority. Her involvement with that group spanned all the decades since college. When Peggy's daughters were growing up, she enlisted them in sorority activities such as organizing and performing in variety, fashion, and talent shows at nursing homes. Peggy took her turns holding offices in the sorority, and every year, Peggy would go with her sorority sisters to their annual meeting in different cities and states. Before and after her retirement years, Peggy took her sorority day turns as a volunteer in the gift shop of the St. Benedict's/Ogden Regional Medical Center. As long as Peggy was able to drive, she was still picking up other elderly members and taking them with her to sorority meetings.

With the onset of Alzheimer's, Peggy began to slow down. Earl's vision had declined so that he could no longer drive. Peggy wasn't always sure where to go, but she could see to drive. So, for a while, Earl navigated and Peggy drove them where they wanted to go. They were a team. Earl doted on Peggy, and helped her in every way he could, just as she loved and supported him.

But, after a car accident, the driving had to stop. That's when Peggy and Earl sold their house and moved into Fairfield Village in Layton. Peggy had also forgotten how to cook, and it helped to have someone else preparing their meals.

Earl passed away on October 10, 2016, just 15 days before he would have turned 93. Peggy stayed at Fairfield Village a while longer, but eventually needed more assistance. She received that at Layton Park Memory Care, where Peggy was described by her caregivers as having a sweet disposition—unless they tried to persuade her to eat her vegetables. Peggy never had been a fan of vegetables, and that just wasn't going to happen. But, otherwise, Peggy was always gracious and cooperative.

From my experience as Peggy's pastor over the last seven years, I can echo that sentiment. Peggy was a sweet lady. I never heard her complain about anything. Whenever I went to visit her, she always smiled and seemed glad to have the human and faith connection. As I would tell her about the latest developments at church and update her about other elderly members whom she might recall, she seemed happy to get the news and to share a prayer. Before I left, she would always thank me for my visit.

I'm sure you in the family also have had experiences of Peggy's kindness, steadiness, and gracious ways. So I'm going to stop talking now and see if any of you have any memories or thoughts you'd like to share.

OTHER MEMORIES from Family

PRAYER FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS & COMMENDATION

Let us pray:

God of peace and comfort, we lift before you Peggy's family. Assure them of your loving presence with them, both now and in the days, weeks, and months ahead. Enable them to know your forgiving grace, and help them to support each other during this time of grief. Give them strength to move on into the future with hope and joy.

Now, O God, we return Peggy's body to the earth from which it came. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. And we commend Peggy's spirit to you. We ask that you receive Peggy into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of all the saints. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SONG: "God Be with You 'Til We Meet Again"

BENEDICTION

And now, may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty--the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit--be with you always. Amen.