

A Service of Gratitude, Memory, and Hope:



**Celebrating the Life of Martha "Sue" M. Burdick
1938 - 2021**

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

December 19, 2021

One o'clock p.m.

Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ
Coral Gables, Florida



**Please stand as you are able*

Gathering Music

Tocatta in D

J.S. Bach

Dr. Ron Morgan, organ

God of Grace and God of Glory

Paul Manz

Dr. Ron Morgan, organ; Jim Hacker, trumpet

It is Well with My Soul

Sandra Zylstra

Dr. Greg Taylor, piano; Ariele Macadangdang, violin

Now Thank We All Our God

J.S. Bach

Dr. Ron Morgan, organ; Jim Hacker, trumpet

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner, Senior Pastor

Carol Sing for Choir and Congregation

O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

The first Nowell the angels did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

The Rev. Megan Smith, Associate Pastor

*Opening Hymn *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;
With craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth without an equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing:
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free!
With mighty power to save, victorious o'er the grave,
Christ will prevail triumphant.

That Word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth shall triumph still,
God's reign endures forever.

A Litany of Gratitude (based on Psalm 23)

The Rev. Lisa LeSueur, Assistant Pastor for Congregational and Staff Care

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

People: **In God we live and move and have our being.
In God is our trust for all we need.**

Leader: God makes me to lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside the still waters.

People: **We thank God for precious moments of silence
and reverence and remembrance.**

Leader: He restores my soul.

People: **When the world is too much for us,
when life is saddened with sorrows and pain and fear,
God restores our spirit and lifts us up.**

Leader: God leads me in right paths for the sake of God's name.

People: **When the hurry of the day makes us thoughtless of others,
when we think too much of that which is our own, God
leads us back to the paths of unselfishness and what is right.**

Leader: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will
fear no evil: for you are with me;

People: **When we become ill, when life draws to its close,
when empty places are left in our homes,
our God comforts and sustains us.**

Continued...

Leader: You prepare a table before me...my cup overflows.

**People: No power is so great, no threat so fearful,
that we can be separated from our God.**

In the midst of life's defeats, God is with us.

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

People: God has promised not to leave us comfortless.

As God has been with us in the past,

God will be our constant companion in the future.

Leader: And I shall dwell in the house of God forever. Amen.

Gift of Music

Baba Yetu

The Lord's Prayer in Swahili

The Vocal Ensemble; Anthony Cabrera, soloist; Seth Woods, percussion

Words of Gratitude, Memory, and Hope

Pastor Laurie

***Hymn**

God of the Sparrow

God of the sparrow, God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

God of the rainbow, God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace

How does the creature say Thanks

God of the neighbor, God of the foe

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages, God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How do your children say Home

Closing Prayer

Prayer Response

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter

The Vocal Ensemble; Ariele Macadangdang, violin

Commendation and Song of Simeon

The Rev. Aaron Lauer, Associate Pastor for Emerging Generations

Choral Benediction

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart
The Vocal Ensemble

David Fetler

***Benediction**

Please be seated following the benediction.

Postlude

Toccata
Dr. Greg Taylor, organ

Widor

***Recessional**

For All the Saints
Dr. Ron Morgan, organ; Jim Hacker, trumpet

*During the recessional, the Burdick family will process out first,
followed by the congregation pew by pew.*

*The Burdick Family thanks you for sharing in this service celebrating Sue's life.
You may greet them outside in front of the church.*



My Mom (Martha Sue Moore Burdick)

"Sue," left her pain, breathing issues, and all other troubles behind her this morning. After 60+ years of marriage, my Dad is heartbroken and at the same time grateful that Mom is not suffering. Dad commented that it was as Schultz's Charlie Brown said: Good Grief. We are saddened by our loss but live in a belief that she is in a much better place than anyone could ever provide her on Earth.

Mom had many talents and lived a very rich life. Born and raised around Chicago by her parents Doris and Ken Moore with her siblings (Jeanne, Ken, and Marjorie). She studied at Earlham College, Boston Univ., the American Univ. Beirut (Lebanon), and Colgate Rochester Seminary. She was a TV anchor for a children's show (Boston, MA); a teacher; Director of the Women's Center and Shelter (Pittsburgh, PA); an advocate for children with learning disabilities; an avid game player, reader, and puzzle solver; and a world wanderer (Canada, Middle East, Nicaragua, Korea, and most of the USA) in an RV with Dad.

My sister, Natasha (her family - Ted, Rachel, and Ed), and I (my family - Laura, Jakob, and Andrew), feel very blessed to have had her as an awesome role model. She believed and lived the Golden Rule. She taught us to be faith-filled, caring individuals and to treat all people with respect and dignity.

She loved her family very much and made sure we knew it!

"May the Lord watch over us, while we are apart one from another." Genesis 31:49

~Joe Burdick, son

What things are steadfast?

*"one does not bury the mother's body
in the ground but in the chest"*

- from Natasha Trethewey's *Imperatives for Carrying on in the Aftermath*

A night not so long before grandma passed
I woke to a feeling of electricity.

If there are ghosts, it was a ghost.

From a paralytic sleep
to utterly alert, hair utterly erect,
breathless and immovable.

Even my dogs were uneasy. I was awake a long time —
heart palpitating, scared that bad news was coming.

I remember, in my childhood, waking,
drenched in sweat from a now lost night-terror,
I remember grandma singing to calm me,
her voice clearer in my memory than the one in my voicemail:

'This Little Light of Mine' — one of many in her repertoire
of children's songs, sacred and filled with hope.

In my memory her love is palpable.

In our final days together, I crawled into her hospital bed
both of us leaning into one another

like children with secrets, a mirror of how she'd stayed

the many months when I was sick;
both of us shrunken and fighting.

Each day, trying to coerce her to eat,

rubbing oils into her legs and feet, I thought how a body's recovery
is also will; thought of the swaddled and warm, lightlessness and pain-free
the closest to death I've known — still young and I didn't want to come back.

Once, a teacher told me to my great revelation
that we carry our dead with us, in our memories,

our behaviors and voices, not wholly our own, more than amalgam

less than collage, and it's true that when I look in the mirror

I see the women in my family: mother's cheeks,

grandma's dimple and jaw. Grandma promised

if after this life we can send a message,
she will send me one.

~ Rachel Phillips, granddaughter

Martha “Sue” M. Burdick
1938 - 2021

Sue Burdick, a native of Illinois, studied at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. In the Quaker school she studied with D. Elton Trueblood. Gaining an interest in global issues she enrolled for her junior year at American University in Beirut with classes at Beirut College for Women where she studied Islam under the direction of Kenneth Cragg, author of nearly thirty books dealing with Islam and the Middle East. During the more than a year study, Sue travelled extensively throughout the Middle East, had the privilege of rooming with the daughter of the chief negotiator for the Palestinians in the 1948 reparations, and was asked to consider being an anchor announcer for the Voice of America radio station in Beirut.

Believing that she could better serve if she had a degree in radio, she entered Boston University College of Communications, School of Radio, Film and Television. She also pursued a degree in education. Sue taught in the Uxbridge, Massachusetts School District. She also produced, directed, wrote, and was the “on camera” personnel for the Massachusetts Council of Churches Sunday morning program. “Ring Around Sunday with Miss Sue.” It was the first color TV program series for Boston’s PBS. Sue had the excitement of numerous remote locations including Plymouth Village. When not on remote locations she used film clips and interviewed grade school students from various schools for weekly discussion with issues raised in the films or at the remote sites.

Following graduation from BU, Sue and her husband William Burdick joined the faculty of The Ecumenical Institute: Chicago. From their Chicago base Sue taught lay and clergy theological studies in more than a dozen states. She was on the curriculum design team for one of the first Head Start Programs in the United States, working in the area of Imaginal Education. One of the high points of this work was the affirmation of Sargent Shriver and his visit to the Fifth City Nursery School.

The medical challenges of their first-born necessitated a move from Chicago. The Burdick’s chose Pittsburgh. There, two highlights of Sue’s involvements stand out. First, she organized and planned curriculum for a suburban – inner city education experience. This was developed in cooperation with the Pittsburgh City Schools and involved about 300 participants. Suburban high school students became teachers of inner-city students in a program called the Urban Children’s Institute. This involved sociological changes to urban life, major urban pioneers, and Pittsburgh city knowledge.

The other involvement was serving as the first executive director of the Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. Sue helped make the transition from a volunteer organization to a career and volunteer structure with numerous local efforts merging into a comprehensive county-wide center. In addition to her fundraising responsibilities, Sue became an instructor and program developer for city, county, and commonwealth police on issues of domestic violence.

Continued...

During this time Sue Burdick also became an active member and teacher of the Western Pennsylvania Conference (UMC) School of Missions and a participant in the North Eastern Regional Schools of Christian Mission, making presentations to numerous churches in Western Pennsylvania and New York. She served as a delegate and resource person to both the Western Pennsylvania and the Western New York Conference of the United Methodist Church. Following the Burdick's move to NY, Sue enrolled in Colgate-Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

For more than a year after Bill's retirement, Sue served as a private nurse for his convalescence. He had five major surgeries and more than twenty hours of operations. Again, she excelled! Many times, pointing out to visiting nurses medical issues that needed to be addressed.

Following the healing and after gaining strength, the Bs purchased a class A motor home and hit the road. 2Bs, as it was named, took the couple four times across the US, up through the Canadian Rockies and allowed them to spend approximately a week in each of the major cities, two to three days in many of the national parks, and to see each of the presidential libraries (with the exception of the Roosevelt Library in NY State). The first trip was the "WOW" trip because each time we would go around a bend in the road or over a hill, Sue would exclaim "Look at that!" The next trip was the "Grandeur" trip as we saw really grand sights like the Tetons and Grand Canyon among many others.

We were in Key West when Sue heard on NPR about a church in the Miami area. She said that she would like to go there for Christmas. We packed and moved out. What an experience?!? We went back to Coral Gables UCC the following Sunday and have been there ever since - selling the RV and buying a small condo. Sue was given the keys, at the closing, on her birthday.

We have been so blessed! Together we had sixty years, one month, and fourteen days - never enough but still so great. She gave birth to two wonderful children and was their primary care giver. Natasha Rebecca was born at the end of the Cold War - hence the first name. And Joseph Dietrich Marcellus was named after the one who led the Israelites into Egypt, after Bonhoeffer, and after a family name. Sue has delighted in their offspring, too. In order of appearance: Rachel Doris and Edward William (to Natasha and Ted Carstens); Jakob Anton and Andrew Ellis (to Laura and Joe). She took pride in both parents' and grandchildren's accomplishments. We can go from Eagle Scout to FDA and many wonders in between.

There was never a doubt that she lived fully and joyfully. Love and care were middle names for her. She was intentional, futuristic, and comprehensive in her outlook and actions. She encouraged all to live to one's potential and not be victimized by any circumstance. Well done, good and faithful servant. Well done!

~Bill Burdick, husband

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