

Celebration of the life of Paul Staubli



Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Geneva
Saturday, August 19th 2023 at 15:00

I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807)

Opening Prayers

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother, Paul. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Paul's family in their grief. We pray for Marsha, Charles and Delphine, Mila and Elynn, Laura and Qiang, Daniel and Sara. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to

the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn *The Lord's my shepherd*

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
 he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
 the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
 and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
 e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
 yet will I fear none ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
 and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd
 in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
 and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall me.

Scottish Psalter, 1650. Music: Brother James' Air

A reading from the Book of Revelation

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them and be their God;
⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who

conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

A reading from the Gospels of John and of Matthew

Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Thanks be to God

Tributes

Homily

The Rev. Michael Rusk

Musical Interlude

Ständchen

F. Schubert

The Prayers

Let us 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,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

O God, who brought us to birth, and in whose arms we die, in our grief and shock contain and comfort us; embrace us with your love, give us hope in our confusion and grace to let go into new life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, we thank You for being with us in all circumstances. Even though we don't know the reason for those circumstances, we trust and believe that You do have a plan for us. During those times provide us with the comfort, strength, and wisdom we need along with the peace that passes all understanding. We pray in the precious name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of this troublous life,

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

Song

*Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.*

The Commendation

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

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your
servant, Paul. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a
sheep of your own fold a lamb of your own flock, a sinner
of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of
your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and
into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May the love and peace of God bless and console you,
and all who have known and loved Paul,
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit be with you, now and always. Amen.

Hymn *Thine be the glory*

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay:

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless
love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

*A toi la gloire, O Ressuscité, Edmond Budry (1854-1932)
Translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)*

Postlude

La Rejouissance from *Fireworks Music*
G. F. Händel

Please join the family for refreshments at

***Hôtel d'Angleterre** after the service.*

Address: Quai du Mont-Blanc 17, 1201 Genève

*The Service is conducted by the Rev. Michael Rusk, Rector of
Emmanuel Episcopal Church.*

The organist is Shauna Beesley.

Andrew Close is the clarinet soloist.

