

A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF

John E. “Trapper” Gaal

January 3, 1947 to May 19, 2020

*Please stand in body or in spirit

PRELUDE

SENTENCES

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life; all who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.”

***OPENING HYMN #323**

“How Great Thou Art”

***GREETING**

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, we gather here in the protective shelter of God’s healing love. We are free to pour out our grief, release our anger, face our emptiness, and know that God cares.

We gather here as God’s people, conscious of others who have died and the frailty of our own existence on earth.

We come to comfort and to support one another in our common loss.

We gather to hear God’s word of hope that can drive away our despair and move us to offer God our praise.

We gather to commend to God with thanksgiving the life of God’s servant and to celebrate the life journey of John Gaal, as we celebrate the good news of Christ’s resurrection.

For whether we live or whether we die, we belong to Christ who is Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gracious is our God and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

I will walk in the presence of God in the land of the living.

I will fulfill my vows to God in the presence of all God’s people.

Precious in the sight of God is the death of those who die in faithfulness.

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23 – Austin Knouse
John 14:1-3 – Ethan Knouse

ANTHEM

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 4:6-8

MEDITATION

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

REMEMBRANCES

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, COMMENDATION, AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts)

***SONG OF SIMEON**

Holy One, now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

***BENEDICTION**

May God bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

May God’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you. **Amen.**

May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. **Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING SONG

“Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound”

Spencer Pheil and Brechyn Chace

MILITARY HONORS – PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG

SENDING SONG

“Over the Rainbow” recording performed by Eva Cassidy

Officiant: Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

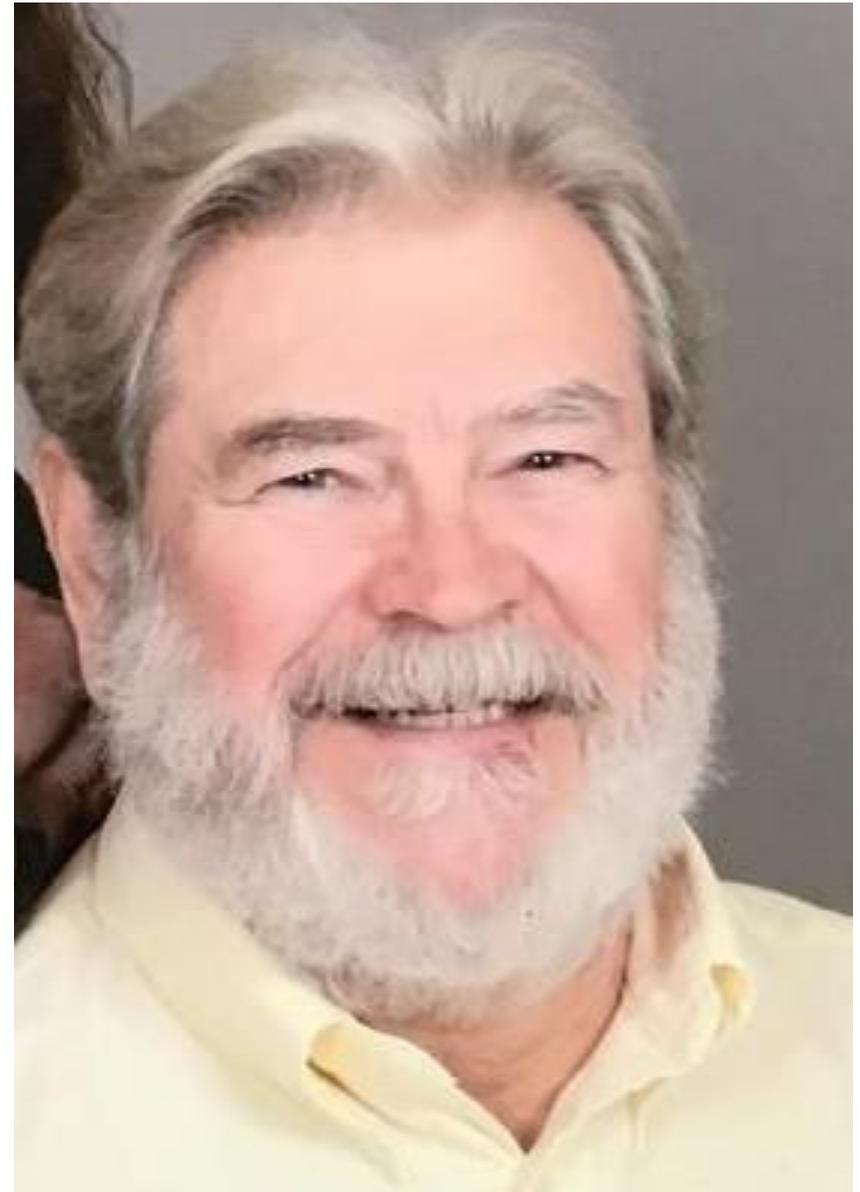
Organist: Tim Long

Anthem: Members of St. John’s UCC Choir

We respectfully request that you practice social distancing.
We support the option of fully vaccinated people to not wear a mask.

“You can shed tears because they are gone,
or you can smile because they lived.
You can close your eyes and pray they will come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all that they left for you.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see them,
or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember only that they are gone,
or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind and feel empty,
or you can do what they would want.
Smile, Open your heart, Love...and go on.”

-Elizabeth Ammons



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1947 - 2020