

A Service in Celebration of the Life of

William Black

December 18, 1925-January 6, 2022



Bill Black died at home peacefully to be with God

Memorial Service: October 23, 2022 • 11:00 AM

***Community United Methodist Church
100 Park Blvd., Massapequa, NY 11758***

Rev. Jane H. Kim

Pastor of Community United Methodist Church, Massapequa, NY

Gathering

GREETINGS

We are gathered here to honor the memory of our departed beloved brother and friend, Bill Black.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN

“Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone”

Chris Tomlin



Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm 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. My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy reigns. Unending love, amazing grace. The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy reigns. Unending love, amazing grace. (2X)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.

But God, who called me here below will be forever mine, will be forever mine

You are forever mine.

TOGETHER LET US PRAY

God, who gave us birth, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray. You know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. 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 solemn message of life and of death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days are accomplished, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in you, and that nothing in life or in death will be able to separate us from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant your peace to those who grieve, his beloved friends. Amen.

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 23 *“The Lord Is My Shepherd”*

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and

your staff— they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”*

MESSAGE

“The Way, the Truth and the Life”

Rev. Jane H. Kim

The Gospel of John is one of the four gospels in the New Testament which, tells the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Today’s reading comes from Jesus’ farewell conversation with his disciples. As he faces his own death, he promises his disciples that he will prepare a place for them--and that he will send the Holy Spirit to be with them once he has departed from them.

There are two promises for us today in this Scripture. One we claim for Bill, our beloved, and the other we claim for ourselves. Jesus first promised, “I am going to prepare a place for you.” We claim this promise of Jesus now for Bill. We trust that he has indeed prepared a place for Bill to be with God. Even now he is with Jesus in heavenly God’s house—in heaven.

Jesus also promised: “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will see you no more, but you will see me. And because I live, you also will live.” We claim this promise now for ourselves. We may feel like an orphan today. We may feel sad or lonely. Some of us may feel relieved that Bill has been delivered from the suffering that he experienced in this world, some we know, some we don’t even know about. Some of us may feel angry at God that he had to suffer at all. No matter how far from God you feel at this moment, we can claim the promise that Jesus will not leave you or me an orphan. He will come to you and me. He is with us now. And he will not leave us alone as we grieve.

Remember both these promises. God has prepared a place for our beloved Bill Black. He is with God in heaven now. And God will not leave anyone here an orphan. God is with us now—and he will be with you and me always.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 says, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” AMEN.

WITNESS TO THE LIFE OF BILL BLACK

Families and Friends

HYMN**“It Was Your Grace”**

All the things that I have found my comfort in.
 All the seconds in my life that I have lived.
 All the moments in my life that I have walked.
 All the things I took for granted was Your grace.
 The rising and the setting of the sun.
 The flowers in the spring and fruits of all.
 Every single moment in seasons of change,
 All the things I took for granted was Your grace.

Everything was Your grace, Your grace, Your grace. Your overflowing grace.

Used to think all I had I deserved but it was all Your grace.

Nothing but Your grace. It was Your grace.

The fact that I was born here on this earth, from my childhood years to who I am today.

My breath, my life, my dreams and all my hopes, all the things I took for granted was Your grace.

As Your child, O God, a life I get to live, the life I live to praise and worship You, the blessing that I have to spread Your truth, all the things I took for granted was Your grace.

Everything was Your grace, Your grace, Your grace, Your overflowing grace. Used to think all had I deserved but it was all Your grace. Nothing but Your grace. It was Your grace. Everything was Your grace. Your grace, Your grace. Your overflowing grace.

Used to think all had I deserved but it was all Your grace.

Nothing but Your grace, it was Your grace. Nothing but Your grace, it was Your grace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Go forth as people of prayer, for the prayers of faithful are powerful. Go forth as people of healing God. May God's comfort and peace be with you all.

