

Memorial Service for Martha Ann Robert

January 10, 1932—January 26, 2023



University Lutheran Church

66 Winthrop Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

25 February 2023

2:00 p.m.

Welcome to University Lutheran Church, a Christian witness and ministry of and to members of the academic and wider communities in Cambridge-Boston – and, virtually, across the world! We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are also a member congregation of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO).

Land Acknowledgment: University Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pawtucket and Massa-adchu-es-et (Massachusetts) peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called, and who continue to call, this land their home.

PRELUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God” [NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT] – Tune by Johann Crüger (1598 – 1662); setting by Georg Philipp Telemann (1681 – 1767)

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” [St. Columba] – Irish tune; settings by David Cherwien (b. 1957) and C. S. Lang (1891 – 1971)

“Beautiful Savior” [SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU] – Silesian folk tune (19th century); settings by John Ferguson (b. 1941), Charles W. Ore (b. 1936), and David Cherwien (b. 1957)

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” [NEW BRITAIN] – Tune from William Walker’s Southern Harmony (1835); setting by Ennis Fruhauf (b. 1944)

Imogene Stulken, organ

THE GATHERING

BELL AND WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation,
who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their
sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.
Amen.

PSALM 121 *to be read responsively*

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
**My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
the Lord watches over you;**

the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

READINGS AND REMEMBRANCES

READING **Philippians 2:1-8**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

REMEMBRANCES

Offered by:

Barbara Rossing, cousin of Ann

Andrée Robert, daughter of Ann

René Robert, son of Ann

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Amazing Grace” [NEW BRITAIN] – Tune from William Walker’s Southern Harmony (1835); setting by Bruce Broolsma

Maria Hedberg, flute; Imogene Stulken, organ

GOSPEL Matthew 25:34-40

“Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

The Rev. Carrie Ballenger

HYMN ELW 838 “Beautiful Savior”

Note: We will sing “Son of Mary” rather than “Son of Man” wherever it occurs in the text.

Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept.*

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

In the Bible, Jesus often speaks of God as "Abba," Father, reflecting a profound intimacy with the creator of all worlds. Here, we extend that intimacy to name God as our Mother.

Friends, it gladdens the heart of Jesus when we pray,
**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now
and forever. Amen.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Siciliano (from *Sonata in E b Major*) – Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

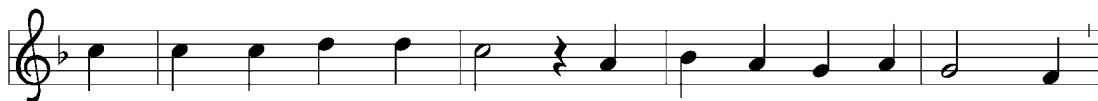
Maria Hedberg, flute; Imogene Stulken, organ

COMMENDATION AND SENDING

Let us commend Ann to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.
Silence is kept.

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

Now Thank We All Our God



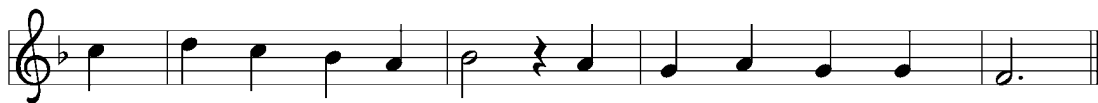
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day,
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace, in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God” [NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT]

– Tune by Johann Crüger (1598 – 1662); settings by Marcel Dupré (1886 –1971) and Georg Friedrich Kaufmann (1679 – 1735)

Imogene Stulken, organ



Martha Ann (Rossing) Robert

Martha Ann (Rossing) Robert was born in Argyle, Wisconsin, on January 10, 1932 to Adolph Hjalmer Rossing and Bertha (Olson) Rossing. She was an exemplary student with a love of learning that lasted all of her life. She was a drum majorette and won a state piano competition, among many other accomplishments.

She graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and taught at the Martin-Luther-Schule, in Rimbach, West Germany for a year afterwards. She earned a master's degree in history at Radcliffe College in 1956, then started a doctoral program in European history at the University of Wisconsin Madison, where she met French-born Lucien Robert. They married in 1957 in Paris.

Ann and Lucien were successful restaurateurs in Boston for almost 50 years. Maître Jacques and Maître Jacques on the Charles were followed by Maison Robert, which they ran for over 30 years, located in Boston's historic Old City Hall. Ann oversaw the elegant dining rooms with grace, poise and warmth.

She planned weddings and special occasions, which brought her great joy. She also did all of the flower arrangements for the two restaurants in the building: the more formal Bonhomme Richard dining room upstairs and the more casual Ben's Café downstairs.

Friends described Ann as dignified, modest, gracious, humble, compassionate, and generous, said the Dean of Women of her alma mater, when Ann was presented with a distinguished alumna award.

Madame Robert, as she was known, also helped to found a Boston chapter of the French-American Chamber of Commerce, the Ecole Bilingue in Newton (now the International School of Boston in Cambridge), Culinary Historians of Boston and the Women's Culinary Guild. She was

devoted to the Schlesinger Library, a part of the Harvard Radcliffe Institute, which houses books and manuscripts on the history of women in the United States, and helped to fundraise for the All Newton Music School in Newton.

A tennis enthusiast, who also played the piano and sang, Madame Robert exercised and walked a mile most days until her first stroke. Ann leaves behind daughter Andrée (husband Tom), son Jean (wife Laird), son Pierre (wife Maryellen), and son René (wife Gina) as well as grandchildren India, Petra, John, Ava, Lydia, and Brooke.

Ann will be greatly missed for her gentle and wise spirit and love of life. She was predeceased by Lucien as well as by her son, Raoul, to AIDS in 1985.

Donations in her honor may be made to Community Servings, an organization that Maison Robert supported, in honor of Raoul Robert.

www.servings.org

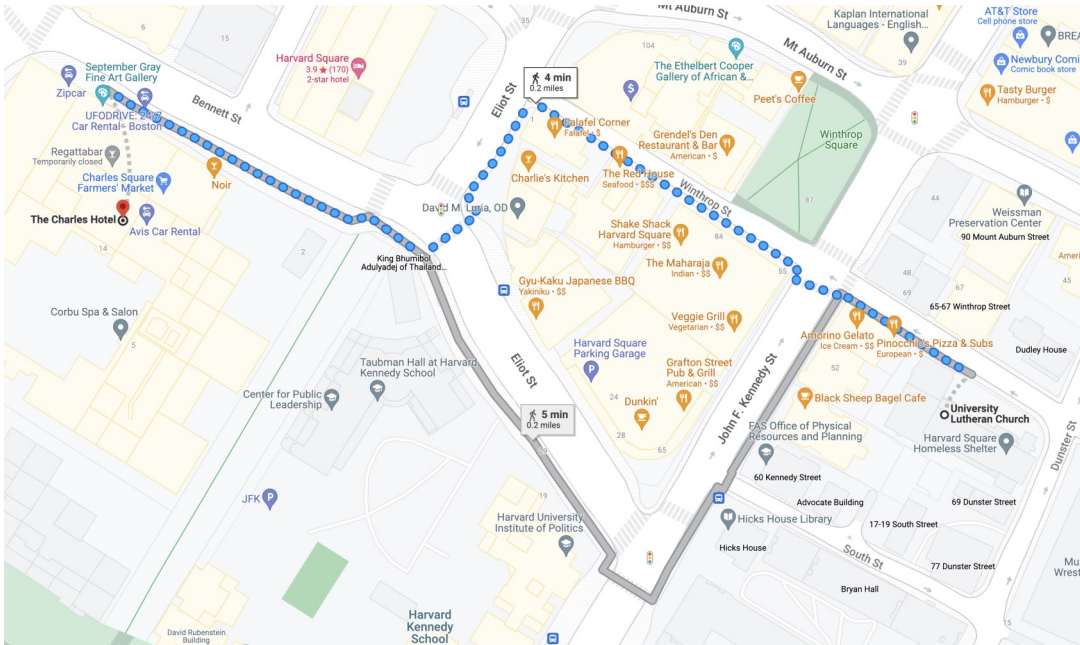






RECEPTION INFORMATION

A reception will follow the service from 3-5 p.m. at the Charles Hotel, located at One Bennett Street in Cambridge (4 minutes by foot).



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