

**A Service in Witness to the Resurrection
and
Celebration of the Life of
ROY ARCHIBALD FERGUSON**
June 23, 1943 - June 25, 2025



Monday, July 21, 2025 / 10:00 am

St. John United Church
10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia MD 21044

Psalm 42:2-6,11

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?

My tears have been my food day and night,

While men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

These things I remember as I pour out my soul:

how I used to go with the multitude,

leading the procession to the House of God,

with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him,

my Savior and my God.

My soul is downcast within me;

therefore, I will remember you

from the land of the Jordan,

the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

* * * * *

Please turn off your cell phone.

Please turn off your cell phone.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**God our creator, your Holy Spirit prays for us
even when we do not know how to pray.**

**Send your Spirit to comfort us in our need and loss and help us commend
Roy Ferguson for your merciful care through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

PRELUDE

"It Is Well With My Soul"

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

If you mourn, come, and God shall hold you.

We will not be alone in our loss.

If your heart grieves, come, and Christ's arms shall enfold you.

Our tears will mingle with his own.

We will trust in our Savior and not be afraid

For he has known the sting of death and conquered it forever.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Gracious God, your steadfast love endures forever, your faithfulness to
all generations. Trustworthy in all your words and generous deeds,
minister now to us in our grief. Please speak to our hearts your words
of comfort. Carry us into hope through the promises of the Holy
Scriptures and fill us with joy and peace from above. In quietness, we
wait upon you.**

OPENING HYMN

"Here I Am Lord"

GTG #69

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS OF COMFORT, ASSURANCE AND REMEMBRANCE

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you promised many rooms within your house. Give us faith to see, beyond touch and sight, some sure sign of your kingdom, and, where vision fails, to trust your love which never fails.

Lift heavy sorrow and give us good hope in Jesus, so we may bravely walk our earthly way, and look forward to glad reunion in the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

REFLECTION

Keith Ferguson

SPECIAL PRAYER

Amanda Wilson

HOMILY

Rev. Hyiwot Teshome

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND
THE LORD’S PRAYER

Congregation

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

THE COMMENDATION AND PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

GTG #542

God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you;
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

THE BENEDICTION

Rev. Hyiwot Teshome

POSTLUDE

“Homeward Bound”

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

* * * * *

The family invites you to join them for refreshments in the lobby immediately following the service.

Make [Memorial Gifts](#) in Roy Ferguson’s name to St. John United Church.



Use the “Memorial Gifts” link above, or this QR code, to donate through GIVELIFY. Choose the “In Memory or In Honor Of” envelope; **include Roy Ferguson’s name in memo section.**

Or you can mail a check to the church (address is below).



St. John United Church
(a UMC/PCUSA community)

Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, Pastor
Ingrid Sampson, Music Director • Patricia Hammer, Accompanist
St. John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia MD 21044
SJUColumbia@gmail.com • www.sjunited.org • 410-730-9137

