

# *A Celebration of Life*



*Janice M. Benson*

*March 6, 1936 ~ September 22, 2025*

*Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church,  
Bellevue, Washington  
November 15, 2025*



*A service of thanksgiving and praise to God  
in loving memory of  
Janice (Jan) M. Benson*

Note: worship leaders will say the light print.  
The congregation responds/says the **BOLD print**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING**

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

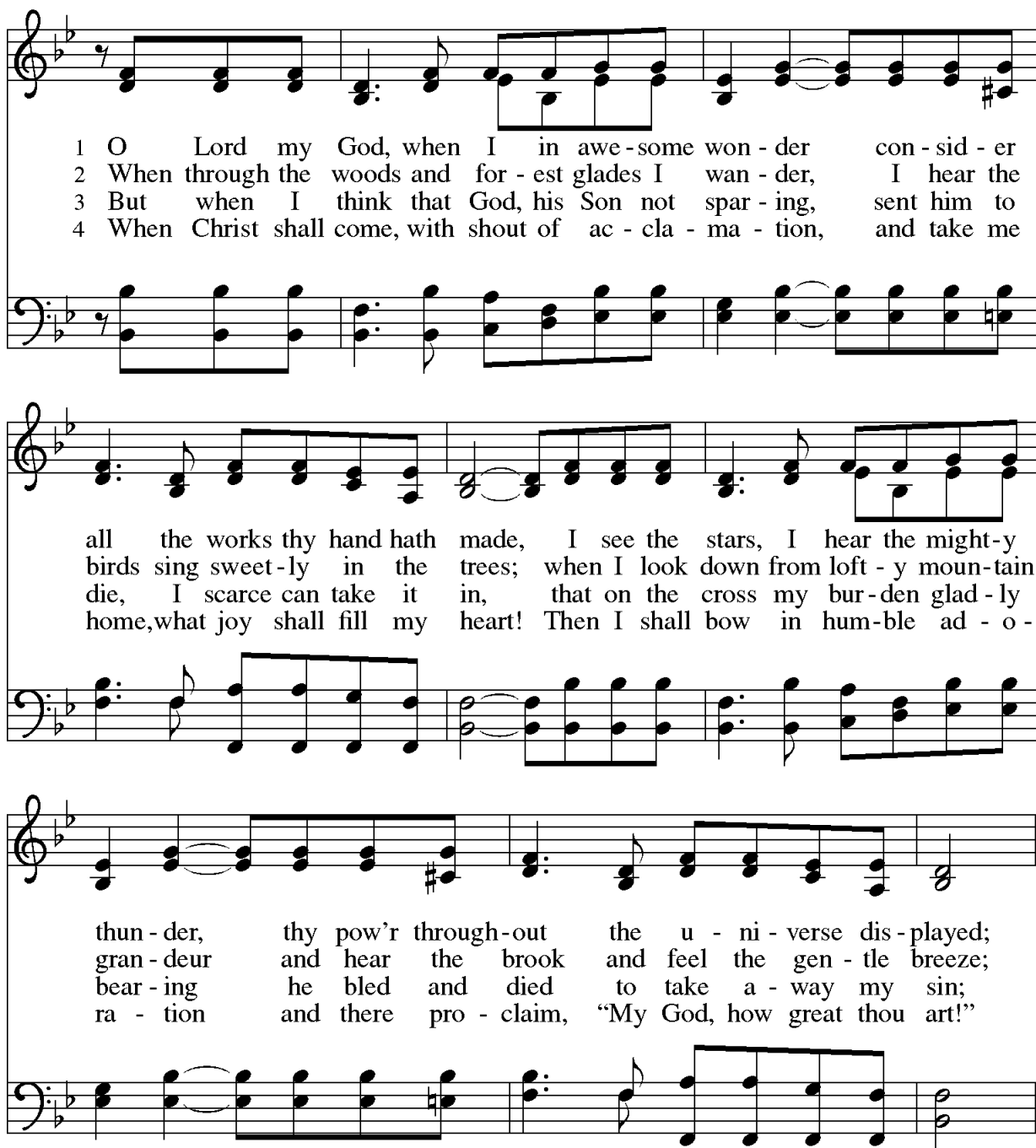
We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen,  
to remember before God our sister in Christ, Jan, to give thanks for her life,  
to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our  
grief.

**Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

# HYMN

## How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er  
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the  
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to  
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain  
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly  
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;  
 gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;  
 bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;  
 ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**And also with you.**

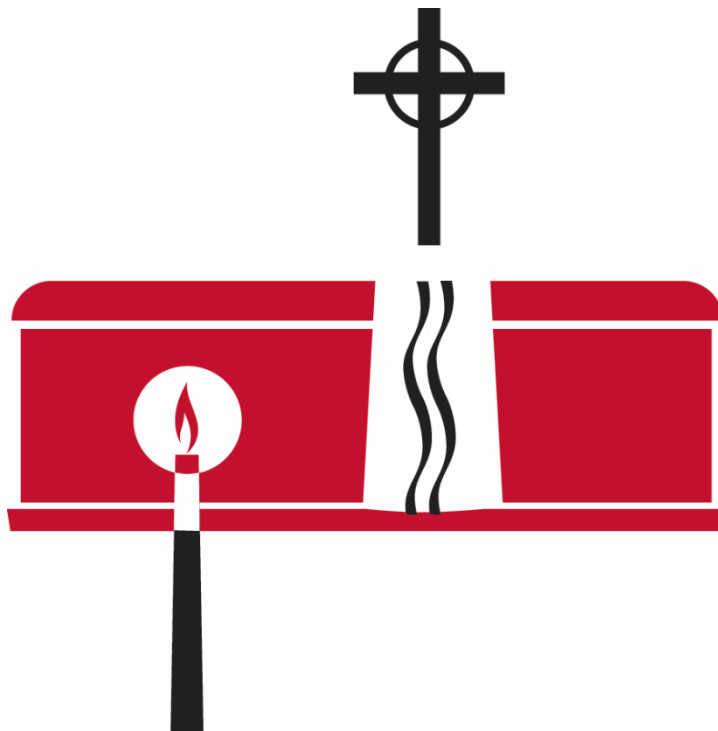
O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister in Christ, Jan. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## EULOGY

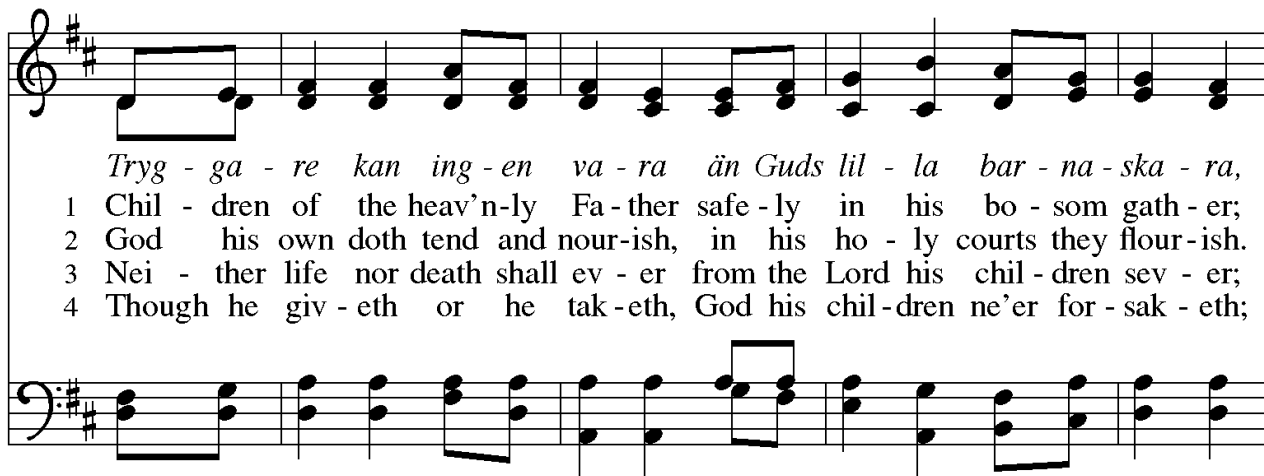
Ruth Benson



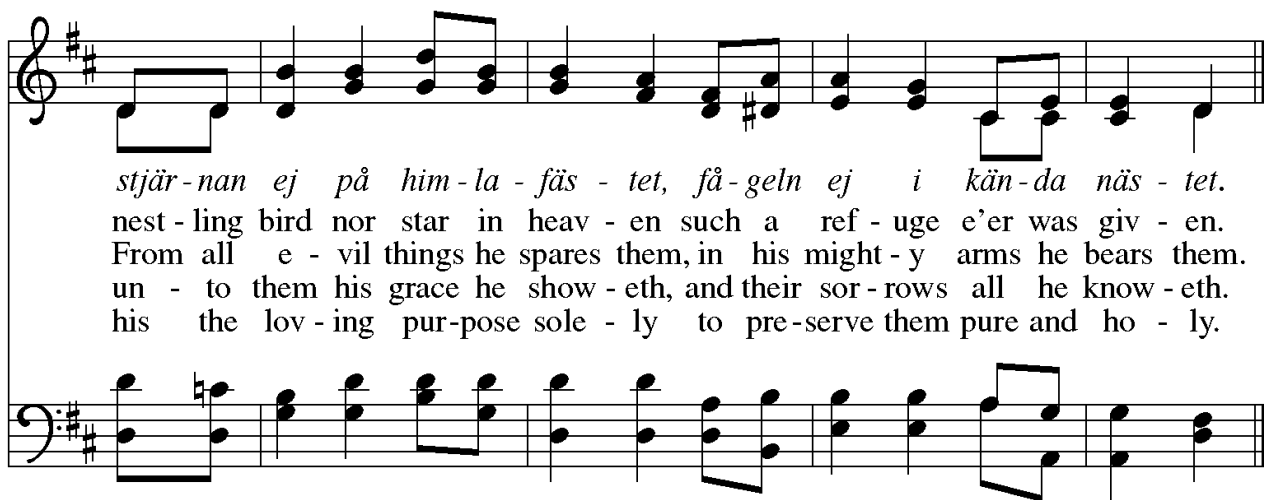
## Hymn

### Children of the Heavenly Father

*Tryggare kan ingen vara*



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Isaiah 40:28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted,  
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 100 (*read responsively*).

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Serve the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.  
**Know that the Lord is God.**  
**It is he who made us, and we are his;**  
**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to God; bless God's name.  
**For the Lord is good;**  
**his steadfast love endures forever**  
**and his faithfulness to all generations.**

## **Mark 16:1-7**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

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

**HOMILY**

Pastor Lara



*Please stand as you are able.*

# HYMN

## Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,  
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Trusting in God's baptismal promises, we affirm our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy \*catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*\* here, "catholic" means the wholeness of the church in all times and places.*

## **PRAYERS**

Let us pray. 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 Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE COMMENDATION**

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

*Silence is kept.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Jan.  
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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit,  
**Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN

## Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*  
 where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

## SENDING

This concludes our service. Let us go in peace,  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

*The family invites you to a reception in our Fellowship Hall.*



## PARTICIPANTS

Presiding Minister  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist  
Video  
Audio

Pastor Lara Forbes  
Dr. Will Simpson  
Kurt Lutterman  
Sharon Gurtel

2650 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98007  
425-746-2529 [www.salc.church](http://www.salc.church)



## LITURGY and MUSIC:

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## Janice M. Benson

March 6, 1936 – September 22, 2025



Jan was born in San Francisco and forever remained proud of the fact that she was a “3<sup>rd</sup> generation San Franciscan.” Her Father Carl Bruhn was a policeman of Danish Descent who also was in the Navy during WW2. Her Mother, Ruth Bruhn was a homemaker until she went to work at Macy’s and the Emporium when Jan was young. Jan was the eldest of two girls. She was about 6 when her sister Arlene was born. As a young girl and woman, Jan was a bit of a tomboy. However, at the age of 18 she became an honored Queen with Job Daughters. Both her parents were Masons.

Jan’s goal was to go to Stanford and work in the medical field. However, Stanford was expensive, and she ended up going to City College of San Francisco while working to put herself through school. It was at City College at the age of 18, she first met a young Merchant Marine from Sweden name Karl Benson. Karl was 7 years older, and she thought of him as a bit of a “dud” until he came back from serving in the Army during the Korean War. She said, he walked into class, and it was “WOW!” for her. They dated for a few years until Jan in exasperation asked Karl, “Do you love me enough to marry me?!” He responded, “Yah I tink so.” They married when Jan was 23 and Karl 30 in a small wedding at Ebenezer Lutheran in San Francisco. Both continued to go to school.

Unfortunately, Jan’s dreams of working in a lab were put down by the sexism of the time. It probably didn’t help but there was an incident where she blew up a lab. She went into the advertising business instead. She continued to work until their first daughter, Ruth, was born. A second daughter, Berit, arrived 3 years later. In 1968 they moved to Bellevue, WA because Karl was hired to run the King County Platting Division. In 1969 they moved to the house where Jan famously said, “they’ll take me out of here by my toenails.” And so, they did.

Many happy memories of parties and friends are shared by those walls. Whether you agreed with her or not, all would say that Jan was “Feisty.” She loved discussing politics, sports, current events and religion. She enjoyed singing and was involved in church choirs and Lake Washington Singers. She had a large group of friends not just from church but also from Gourmet Groups, Red Hats, PEO, Daughters of Norway and volunteering. Acts of service and making sure everyone was taken care of and fed were important to Jan. One never left her house or table without leftovers, especially during the holidays! Jan’s sense of humor remained even in her last months. Jan’s wicked sense of humor, feistiness, strong sense of family and concern for others are what people will remember about her. Jan was pre-deceased by her husband Karl and her daughter, Berit. She is survived by her daughter, Ruth Benson, Granddaughter, Ava Gallion and Sister, Arlene Keesling.



*Job's Daughters*

