

Celebrating the Life of

Willetta Helene



November 23, 1948 - March 19, 2022

Celebration of the Life of
Willette Helene

May 7, 2022, at 3:00pm

First Congregational Church of Pasadena, UCC
500 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91101

***Indicates people are invited to stand if able**

Prelude Medley, including music inspired by the Dandridge Sisters
Connie Washburn, piano, with Brett McDonald, saxophone

Welcome and Call to Worship Marlene & Jake Pomeroy, Co-Pastors, FCCUCC

***Hymn #602** "Savior God Above" by Duke Ellington

Scripture **Philippians 1:3-11 (NRSV)** Kim Story, Member, FCCUCC

Willette blesses us with these words.... caring about us until her last breath...

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because **you hold me in your heart**, for all of you share in God's grace with me... For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reflections

Rev. Patricia Walton (Bloom in the Desert Ministries, UCC)

Fred Osby (cousin)

Sandra Randall (colleague and friend)

Music *"I'll Be Seeing You"* by Sammy Fain and Irving Kahal
Madeline Rahn, vocals, Connie Washburn, piano, Brett McDonald, saxophone

Reflections

Peter Cohen Dobbins & Devon Tsernov (Godsons)
Rev. Anne Cohen (colleague and friend)

Music *"Thanksgiving Eve"* by Bob Franke
Anne Cohen and Madeline Rahn, vocals
Anne Cohen, guitar, with Connie Washburn, piano

Pastoral Prayer and Our Common Prayer Marlene Pomeroy

***Hymn #433** *"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"* by Natalie Sleeth

Committal and Benediction Marlene Pomeroy

Postlude *"Ain't Gonna Study War No More"*, African-American spiritual,
inspired by the Dandridge Sisters
Madeline Rahn, vocals, Connie Washburn, piano, Brett McDonald, saxophone

A reception is offered after the service.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall to view the photo presentation and receive your food.
You may then be seated either inside or outside to eat your food.

In lieu of flowers please donate to these organizations close to Willetta's heart:

Wounded Warrior Project
<https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/>
OR
Obama Foundation <https://www.obama.org/>

Participants:

Rev. Patricia Walton

Fred Osby

Sandra Randall

Peter Cohen Dobbins & Devon Tsernov

Rev. Anne Cohen

Brett McDonald, saxophone

Madeline Rahn, vocalist

First Congregational Church Staff:

Revs. Marlene & Jake Pomeroy, Co-Pastors

Connie Washburn, Music Director

Sallie McNair, Special Events Coordinator

Nina Kung, Office Manager

"The music and dancing of the jazz funeral were intended to both help souls find their way to heaven, and to celebrate the final release from the bounds of earthly life, which had, in the past, included the release from slavery."

/funeralcustoms/neworleansjazz/

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies . will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Ps. 108:5-6; Rom. 13:9-12; Rev. 1:4-6

Duke Ellington, 1943; alt.

Refrain

Sav-ior God a - bove, God al - mighty, God of love,

gva

Last time, end

please look down and see my peo - ple through.

1 I be-lieve that God put sun and moon up in the sky.
 2 Heav-en is a good-ness time, a bright-er light on high.
 3 I be-lieve God is now, was then, and al-ways will be.

ETERNAL LIFE

to Refrain

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system is a single treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. It contains a melodic line with lyrics underneath. The second system is a grand staff with a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom, both with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. It contains a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line. The lyrics are: "I don't mind the gray skies, 'cause they're just clouds pass-ing by. Love your neigh-bor as your - self, and have a bright-er by and by. With God's bless-ing we can make it through e - ter - ni - ty." The piece concludes with a double bar line and the instruction "to Refrain".

I don't mind the gray skies, 'cause they're just clouds pass-ing by.
 Love your neigh-bor as your - self, and have a bright-er by and by.
 With God's bless-ing we can make it through e - ter - ni - ty.

to Refrain

This song is part of the jazz suite Black, Brown and Beige by African-American jazz classicist Duke Ellington. The suite had its premiere in Carnegie Hall in 1943 as a musical portrait of African-American social history.

Tune: COME SUNDAY Irr. with refrain
 Duke Ellington, 1943



To find photos of Willetta, a recording of this service and other remembrances go to:
<https://willetta.weebly.com/>