



A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and
Celebration of the Life of
Laura Elizabeth Ross
April 25, 1981 – June 17, 2023

Saturday, October 14, 2023 – 2:00 p.m.
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church - Asheville, North Carolina

Gathering Music

Appalachian Consort

Introit

Through the Day Thy Love Hath Spared Us

Philip Moore

Welcome and Sentences of Scripture

* **Hymn 819**

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

Remembrances

Geri D'Arco
Jill Zicardi
Alison Gripentrog
Allison Zopel

Jewish Prayer

Jill Zicardi

Mourner's Kaddish

Billy Jonas

Candle Lighting

Music

May the Memory

Bonia Shur

Geri D'Arco | lighting for Antoinette Constantino Rose
Elizabeth Ross | lighting for William Ross
Jonathan Ross | lighting for Laura Ross

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1

Homily

Quiet Reflection

Music: The Lord is My Shephard, John Rutter
This animation was created for the Celebration of Life for Laura's mother
in 2012. It portrays the cycle of the seasons and the renewal of life in
spring and summer. Photos by Elizabeth Ross.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Life of Laura

The Lord's Prayer (Translation from original Aramaic)

**O cosmic Birther, from whom the breath of life comes,
who fills all realms of sound, light and vibration.
May Your light be experienced in my utmost holiest.
Your Heavenly Domain approaches.
Let Your will come true in the universe just as on
earth.**

**Give us wisdom for our daily need,
detach the fetters of faults that bind us,
like we let go the guilt of others.
Let us not be lost in superficial things,
but let us be freed from that what keeps us
off from our true purpose.
From You comes the all-working will,
the lively strength to act,
the song that beautifies all and renews itself from age
to age.
Sealed in trust, faith and truth.**

Responsive Poem

Mevlana J. Rumi (13th century)

LEADER:

How should the soul not take wings
when from the Glory of God
It hears a sweet, kindly call:
"Why are you here, soul? Arise!"

ALL:

**Oh travel from brackish water
now to the fountain of life!
Return from the place of the sandals
now to the high seat of souls!**

LEADER:

Go on! Go on! we are going,
and we are coming, O soul,
From this world of separation
to union, a world beyond worlds!

ALL:

**Oh fly, fly, O my soul-bird,
fly to your primordial home!
You have escaped from the
cage now-
your wings are spread in the
air!**

*** Hymn**

I'll Fly Away

Verse 2 (Congregation sings)

**When the shadows of this life have gone,
I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)**

Refrain:

**I'll fly away, oh, Glory,
I'll fly away (in the morning)
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by,
I'll fly away**

Verse 4 (Congregation sings)

**Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joy shall never end
I'll fly away**

Refrain again

Closing Poem

A Symbol of Love (anonymous)

LEADER: A butterfly lights beside us like a sunbeam
and for a brief moment, its glory and beauty
belong to our world.

**ALL: But then it flies again,
And though we wish it could have stayed...
We feel privileged to have seen it.**

Benediction

Choral Blessing

Irish Blessing

GCPC Chancel Choir

Postlude

Adagio

Widor

As you leave the sanctuary you can leave your affirmations in the basket.

**** Please stand in Body or Spirit***

As you are able, please remain seated until the Postlude is finished
and the family has processed out.

*You are invited to a reception to greet the family
immediately following the service in the atrium.*



Laura Elizabeth Ross

Rev. Dr. Marcia Mount Shoop, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

Dr. Ray Landis, *Director of Music Ministries*

Micah Hayes, *Director of Technology and Media Ministries*