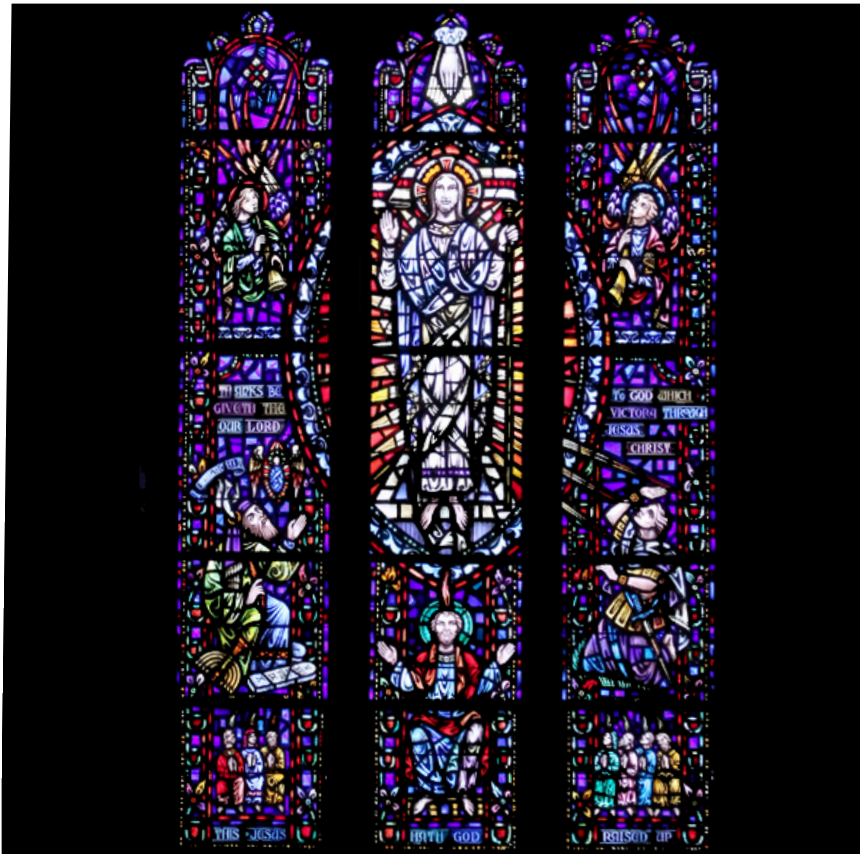


Memorial Service
and
A Celebration of the Life of
David B. Watermulder
November 16, 1920 - April 11, 2015



Two o'clock in the afternoon
April 17, 2015
The Sanctuary
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Avenue
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Prelude

Bless the Lord, Oh my Soul
Fugue in E^b

J.S. Bach
Bach

Welcome

Agnes W. Norfleet

† Call to Worship (Psalm 103)

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

One: As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

All: The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

One: Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

**All: Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

† Hymn 138

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA

Prayer of Invocation and The Lords Prayer

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. Amen.

Old Testament Lessons

Psalm 121
Isaiah 40:28-31

Sarah Watermulder

The Psalter (*in unison*)

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 annointest 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 forever.

New Testament Lessons	Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 John 14:1-6, 25-27 Revelation 21:1-7	David Watermulder Agnes W. Norfleet
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The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem	<i>And I Saw a New Heaven</i>	Edgar Bainton
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Meditation

Solo	<i>“O Rest in the Lord,” from Elijah</i> Suzanne DuPlantis, mezzo-soprano	Felix Mendelssohn
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† Hymn 210	<i>Our God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>	ST. ANNE
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Prayers of Thanksgiving

Commendation

† Hymn	<i>For All the Saints</i>	SINE NOMINE
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† Benediction		Paul Watermulder
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† **Choral Response**

† Recessional	<i>Pilgrim's Chorus</i>	Richard Wagner
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Organ Postlude	<i>Prelude in E^b</i>	J.S. Bach
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† *Please stand, if able*

MEDITATION

Someone has suggested of the historic New York music venue, Carnegie Hall, that if you were to scratch the walls within you would hear reverberations of the greatest music ever performed. If you were to scratch the walls of this sanctuary, you would hear the great hymns of the church reverberate from generation to generation among the music of the spheres. And if you wanted to catch a glimpse of heaven, from within this sacred space, I believe you could close your eyes, scratch the walls, and hear the confident, clarion voice of The Reverend Dr. David B. Watermulder returning over and over to the passages of scripture we have just heard:

*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up on wings as eagles...*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil, for thou art with me...*

*Nothing in all creation shall be able to separate us
from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord...*

*And I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband;
and he that sat upon the throne said,
Behold, I make all things new.*

These central, biblical affirmations of faith were woven into the fabric of Dave Watermulder's being and are imbedded in the living memory of this place.

On a number of occasions, over the last six months, when I was visiting with the Watermulders in their home, Ruth tried gently to engage Dave in a conversation about this service today. You can imagine how these conversations went, "Now, Dave, while Agnes is here, do you want to talk a little about your service when the time comes." With his having presided over countless Memorial Services himself, we figured that he might have some precise thoughts about scripture readings and hymns to choose. For as we all know, he was not a person without strong opinion! However, those conversations generally went nowhere; Dave did not seem to want to discuss it, save one afternoon when Ruth said, "What about Psalm 121, that's one of your favorites, isn't it?" and the entire Psalm flowed from his lips in perfect King James poetry.

As together, we joined Dave in reciting the Psalm by heart and got to that last line, *The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even for evermore*, I realized why he did not feel the need to discuss his own Memorial Service. The primary focus of his life and faith was that he trusted God *to preserve his*

going out and his coming in from this time forth and forevermore. Facing the mystery of death, that's all he needed to hang on to, these key promises of scripture which reverberated through his life and ministry. He trusted God with his life; he trusted God with his death, and he trusted God with his life eternal – far beyond any details of what we might arrange for the celebration of this service today, as important as it is to us to give thanks and to honor his life with a resounding *Alleluia*.

He also trusted us to know what he would want. He trusted Ruth; he trusted Paul and Peter and Martha to plan the kind of service he would have expected; he trusted Jeff Brillhart to know his favorite hymns and service music; he trusted me to preside over a classic, traditional Presbyterian Service of Witness to the Resurrection. Dave trusted us with the details for this service, because he knew that we knew him.

A person almost larger than life by his strength of presence in the pulpit and in his service to the church, The Reverend Dr. David B. Watermulder was authentically, openly, honestly who he was: a child of Christian missionaries; a man of deep faith and strong Christian commitment; a loyal son and leader of Princeton Seminary; a key voice in the Presbyterian denomination and our Board of National Missions; a mentor to many younger pastors within and beyond his own family; a devoted husband to Ruth with whom he shared a beautiful partnership in the gospel; a wonderful father who loved his children with a good and generous heart; a pastor of four fine churches, and *the* pastor of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church who turned this church toward the city as a mission-oriented congregation that would engage its life of faith far beyond the Mainline.

By his leadership during the turbulent years in our country from 1962 to 1987, this congregation became the hands and feet, the heart and voice of the Body of Christ bridging divisions between rich and poor, black and white, urban and suburban. As Jack Moon has told me, Dave had an oft-repeated saying: “If there is need in Philadelphia, we should feel it in Bryn Mawr, and if there is the good life in Bryn Mawr, they should feel it in Philadelphia.”

Many of you know, that one of the first things that Dave did as Pastor in this space was to rearrange the chancel furniture. When he arrived here the large pulpit chair was in the center of the chancel with the two smaller lectern chairs on either side of it. Because Reformed worship is centered on the Word of God, it was not unusual for church architecture to put the preacher in the center, but before Dave came, there was also no cross in the chancel. So Dave removed the chairs for the preacher and worship leaders from the center, and found that cross to occupy that focal point of this church's worship. That single act of rearranging the furniture, and putting the empty cross of the risen Christ at the center, became emblematic of his faith and leadership.

With the cross at the center, during his tenure as pastor here, this congregation began the tutoring program which continues as a vibrant ministry gathering youth from this area to work in one-on-one relationships with inner city children to help them with homework and to learn to read.

With the cross at the center, Dave helped found the Timothy School for the education of children with autism, which eventually outgrew our church space and continues to thrive as a non-profit institution for children with special learning needs.

With the cross at the center, he oversaw the opening of our Weekday School which is still an important outreach for the community, and portal for young families welcoming them into our church.

Beyond these great initiatives, for twenty-five years Dave Watermulder filled this pulpit with the powerful eloquence of one of God's prophets, and he presided over baptisms, weddings, confirmations, ordinations and funerals with a Christ-centered and devoted faithfulness.

As he said in one of his own sermons, "When we declare ourselves Christian, we affirm that our lives are oriented to certain spiritual realities whose vibrations we feel and whose actual associations are real. The cross can serve to symbolize our experience of this spiritual reality. Its upright bar can symbolize the heights and depths of our spiritual awareness penetrating to the depths of being, and soaring to the heights with the heavenly hosts who surround us. It's horizontal bar can represent the length and breadth of our spiritual consciousness reaching around the globe as we identify ourselves with people of other races and places and life-styles who also find the focus of their meaning in Jesus Christ." (*Saying the Creed in the 1970's: How Open Are We to Spiritual Experience?* March 26, 1972.) By putting that cross in the center, Dave Watermulder reaffirmed and refocused the orientation of this congregation as one which would find our life by giving it away, and identify ourselves as servants of Christ in and for the world.

Our scripture reading and anthem from the Revelation to John contain some Dave's favorite biblical images. Revelation draws upon imagery that was important to the people of God long before John had this revelation on the Island of Patmos. John recalls the promises of days gone by as he addresses a season of severe persecution for the early church: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth – that is the hope long ago proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah that God was about to create a new thing. And the sea was no more – is an image that goes all the way back to the opening verses of Genesis, where the sea is described as a turbulent place of chaos until tamed by the life-giving word of God. John's vision of the new Jerusalem recalls the city long ago sanctified for worship which

at the time of John's revelation lies in ruins. A new Jerusalem will be restored, gathering the faithful – the church – across time and space into the peaceful dwelling of God.

Old songs of faith, sung in the present tense, with the assurance that, come what may, the children of God will some day in the future assemble before the throne of God in ceaseless praise. Death will be no more. Pain will be no more. Mourning and crying will be no more. For the former things will have passed away, and the promises of resurrection and eternal life will be fulfilled for all.

We live in this in-between time. Between ancient promises sung long ago, and God's bright future of ceaseless praise. And we have strength for this in-between time, because Dave Watermulder left this sanctuary reverberating with the central message of the Christian faith, and with a powerful vision of what it means to be the church with the cross at the center leading us into the world as bold disciples of the Risen Christ. So on this day of days, with deep gratitude, and resounding thanksgiving, we praise God that Dave Watermulder has lived through death into God's bright future of ceaseless praise. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMENDATION

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; Endless is the victory, thou o're death has won. Ever-living God, in this season of Eastertide we are thankful for your promises of resurrection: for angels in bright raiment, a stone rolled away, folded grave-clothes, an empty tomb and new life unleashed throughout the world. A Risen Savior going before us to show us how to live and love, and how to be your body of Christ in the world, the church. As the world around us comes to glorious bud and flower, so may our faith be filled with new life even as we face the mystery of death, and remember David Watermulder with great love and affection.

We give thanks for the family and institutions which nurtured him to become the man he was, his forebears and parents devoted to spreading the gospel, his pride of Kansas University and loyalty to Princeton Theological Seminary. We remember with gratitude the kind of person he was – strong and diligent, possessing high expectations for himself and others; but also generous, compassionate and loving. We recall how, while he was frugal with resources, he also gave of himself at 110% for every involvement in his daily rounds of ministry, his leadership as member and Chair of the Board of Trustees at Princeton Seminary, his devotion to the Presbyterian denomination through his work with the Board of National Missions, the World Council of Churches, and various boards of church-related schools and institutions.

We are grateful for his service among your congregations in Hightstown, Watertown, Oak Park and here in Bryn Mawr. For countless baptisms performed with gentleness, weddings which carried the life-giving promises of faith as the source of joy for bride and groom, for pastoral care which showed forth the compassion of Christ, preaching that intoned your power and presence, dear God, and prayers offered with the beauty of poetry and eloquence of pure grace. We are mindful that by his strong service to your church, countless others – pastors and lay leaders alike, have been mentored to commit themselves with the best use of their spiritual gifts.

And what a gift Dave was to his family – so now we thank you for his 68- year marriage to Ruth, their joy of family life, their serving your church together and opening their home to entertain as an extension of the Christian hospitality. We are grateful that his children remember him as a terrific father who lovingly shared with them the daily rounds of church commitment, and also took long stretches of time with them during mountain lake vacations, boating and teaching them to fish, enjoying the trees and love of the woods, the companionship of beloved pet dogs, and the sheer delight of being together.

We pray for this family, asking you to comfort them as they, in Dave's own words, mourn with joy: for Ruth who has lost her life-long companion and partner in the gospel; for Paul and Peter and Martha, for their children and grandchildren who have lost a beloved Dad and Grandpa. May they be comforted by the kind of faith that Dave shared with them all these years, upheld by your promises of resurrection, and buoyed by the knowledge that Dave is where he knew he would be, having entered the Church Triumphant, he has taken his place among that great Cloud of Witnesses, the Communion of Saints, who cheer us on through Jesus Christ.

So now, into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, David Brainard Watermulder. Acknowledge, we humbly pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. And may God in endless mercy, bring the whole church, the living and departed to a joyful resurrection in the fulfillment of eternal life and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN.

The Reverend Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet
Pastor, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
April 17, 2015