



FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 13, 2025

A Service of Celebration for the Life of Gertrude Balentine

“In my Father’s house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?” John 14:2

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*At the sign of the * asterisk, all who are able please stand.*

PRELUDE “*Will the Circle Be Unbroken*” - Traditional

Sung by Randy Travis

WELCOME - Pastor Monica

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Dying, Christ destroyed our death. Rising, Christ restored our life. Christ will come again in glory. As Gertrude Balentine was baptized into Christ, she was clothed with Christ; in the day of Christ’s coming, she shall be clothed with glory. Gertrude lived into her baptism as she walked as a faithful follower of Christ.

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

O God, who gave us birth, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray. You know our needs before we ask, just as you know our ignorance in asking. Show us your grace, that as we face the mystery of death, we may see the light of eternity. Help us hear once more your solemn message of life and of death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are ended, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The eternal God is our dwelling place,

People: *and underneath are the everlasting arms.*

Leader: God is my light and my salvation; of whom shall I fear?

People: *God is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

Leader: I lift my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?

People: *My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.*

Leader: Let us worship God.

* OPENING PRAYER

God, our comforter, you are a refuge and strength for us, a helper close at hand in times of distress. Help us to hear the words of our faith that our fear is dispelled, our loneliness above our natural sorrow, to the peace and light of your constant love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN - “The Old Rugged Cross” (See Insert)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Source of all true wisdom, calm the troubled waters of our hearts, and still all other voices but your own, that we may hear and obey what you tell us in your word, through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 23 (Unison)

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.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

John 14:1-3

Matthew 5:4

Romans 8:11

MEDITATION - Pastor Monica Russell

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD - "The Apostles' Creed"

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE FOR THE LIFE OF
GERTRUDE BALENTINE**

- ~ Steve Balentine
- ~ Bridget Diekema, friend
- ~ Pam Winters, friend

* **HYMN - "Amazing Grace" #649**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

* **HYMN - "How Great Thou Art" #625**

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE - Country Music Medley**

Please join the family in Stevenson Hall for refreshments and fellowship following the service.

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sierra Vista, AZ

Gertrude Elizabeth Balentine

November 1, 1936 - November 9, 2025



"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."

~ Psalm 23:4

Pastor Monica Russell, CRE
Larry Diekema, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Organist/Pianist