



Celebration of Life
Dorothy (Dotti) L. Gerner
April 25, 1928 – January 8, 2023



Saturday, January 28, 2023 - 2:00pm

PRELUDE

<i>This Is My Father's World</i>	arr. V. D. Thompson
<i>A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</i>	arr. Dietrich Buxtehude
<i>My Faith Looks Up to Thee</i>	arr. V. D. Thompson
<i>O Rest in the Lord (from Elijah)</i>	Felix Mendelssohn
<i>Blessed Assurance</i>	arr. V. D. Thompson
<i>O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go</i>	arr. V. D. Thompson
<i>Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach
<i>God So Loved the World (John 3:16)</i>	Sir John Stainer

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the midst of life we are surrounded by death;
from whom can we seek help?

People: Our help is in the name of the Lord who created heaven and earth.

Leader: God who raised Christ from the dead
will give life to your mortal bodies also
through the Spirit that dwells in you.

*OPENING HYMN #139

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning

bears thee on eagle's wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining.

God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.

Hast thou not known his sustaining?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;

surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,

fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.

Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.

OPENING PRAYER

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42

TRIBUTE BY MARK GERNER

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8

SERMON

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

*CLOSING HYMN

We Thank Thee, Lord

***We thank thee, Lord, thy paths of service lead
to blazoned heights and down the slopes of need;
they reach thy throne, encompass land and sea.
And he who journeys in them walks with thee.***

***We've sought and found thee in the secret place
and marveled at the radiance of thy face;
but often in some far off Galilee
beheld thee fairer yet while serving thee.***

***We've felt thy touch in sorrow's darkened way
abound with love and solace for the day;
and, 'neath the burdens there, thy sovereignty
has held our hearts enthralled while serving thee.***

***We've seen thy glory like a mantle spread
o'er hill and dale in saffron flame and red;
but in the eyes of man, redeemed and free,
a splendor greater yet while serving thee.***

*THE BLESSING

Please join hands as you receive the blessing.

POSTLUDE

Toccata from Organ Symphony 5

Charles Marie Widor

Rev. Darren Cushman Wood, Senior Pastor, presiding
Rev. Robert Schilling, Organist

Dorothy (Dotti) L Gerner, age 94, Newburgh, Indiana, passed away January 8, 2023. Dorothy Love was born in Belmont, NC, graduated from High Point University and Scarritt College for Christian Workers. She and Henry Gerner married in 1952.

She served as Director of Christian Education in Boston, MA (where she met Henry), Berkeley, CA, and Bowling Green, OH. She taught elementary school in East Wareham, MA and created a private Kindergarten for faculty children at Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, NC. She was also the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of the Indiana Heart Association in Indianapolis.

She came to Indianapolis in 1975 and in 1979 began as Director of Christian Education at North United Methodist Church; this later expanded into parish and pastoral care. In 1982, she helped establish what became the Mid-North Shepherd's Center. For years, she served on the national Board of Shepherd's Centers of America.

She actively participated in the groups Christians for Peace and Justice in the Middle East, United Women in Faith, and Stephen Ministries.

She was consecrated as a Diaconal Minister in 1977, chairing the S. Indiana Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry for eight years and on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for 11 years, chairing several Continuing Education committees.

During retirement, she worked in areas of justice for persons marginalized by society, against wars and violence, and persons treated unfairly anywhere. She enjoyed traveling, gardening and Elderhostels.

Following Henry's passing in 2008, she found love again with long-time family friend Paul McClure. In 2016, they were joined together in spiritual matrimony, which continued until Paul's passing in 2021.

She moved to Newburgh, IN at that point to be closer to her son and daughter-in-law. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Deborah (Misty) J. Gerner, sisters Maxine Edwards, Betty Hunsucker, and Francis Love; her brother Harold Love; her husband Henry Gerner, and spouse Paul McClure, Sr.

Surviving Dorothy are her son Mark and wife Nancy; granddaughter Elizabeth Wilson and grandson William Montgomery, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and their families.

For those who so choose, gifts in memory may be sent to:

*North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208
Mid-North Shepherd's Center, 3808 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208*