



The Funeral of
Kenneth Townsend
Grace Lutheran Church
Champaign, Illinois

October 9, 2021

Welcome!

We are glad that you have joined us as we gather today in the presence of God and in the name of Jesus Christ and to commend Kenneth Townsend into God's eternal care. We believe that God is truly at work here today in this worship service to both create and sustain our faith in God's promises of life for Jesus' sake, so that we may be comforted in our sorrow and empowered to be agents of God's grace in the world around us. This stands at the center of all we do as a community of faith at Grace.

If you are visiting us for the first time, the following information may make your visit easier:

- Large-print bulletins are available from the ushers.
- Restrooms are down the hall to the left of the entrance, on the right across from the elevator.

Key to the order of service:

Regular type: spoken by a leader

Bold type: spoken by the people

Small Italics: liturgical directions

✝ indicates that the sign of the cross may be made

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Hymnal)

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Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

The family gathers at the font with the urn.

The presiding minister welcomes the assembly.

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother Kenneth Randall Townsend, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism,

a pall is placed on the urn as the following is said:

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

The presiding minister sprinkles the casket with water from the font following each acclamation.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

We glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.

The presiding minister processes with the urn to the front of the nave as the hymn is played

Hymn: *Here I Am Lord*

ELW 574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother Ken. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant,
and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and
a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. ¹⁴I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. ¹⁵That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Psalmody

Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**²The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

**³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.**

**⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4: 7-18

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture — "I believed, and so I spoke" — we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5: 1-10

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn *Borning Cry*

ELW 732



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
 you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
 I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
 If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

The assembly stands.

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of the whole church, the faith in which we are baptized.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the ✝ resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The assisting minister leads the prayers. Each petition concludes:

... God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

God of all grace, ... now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

Commendation

The presiding minister leads the commendation.

Let us commend Ken to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Kenneth Randall.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, 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.

Amen.

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.



Final Hymn: Precious Lord Take My Hand

ELW 773



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Postlude

Worship Support

The ministry of the church is carried out by all of its people, and Christian worship is a communal activity of the whole assembly. We give thanks to the following for their worship leadership and support today.

Presiding Minister

Pastor Chris Repp

Assisting Minister

Helen Repp

Readers:

Liz Townsend Bird

Nancy Anderson

Organist:

Jonathan Young

Sound Technician:

Kevin Vail

Office Assistant:

Lyla Vipinraj

In Loving Memory of
Kenneth Randall Townsend, Jr

1944 - 2020

Kenneth Randall Townsend, Jr. age 76, of Maricopa, AZ passed away on January 10, 2020. Ken was born on January 9, 1944 in Chicago, IL. He was the son of Kenneth and Margaret Townsend, Sr.

The Townsends moved to Elmhurst, IL in the early 1950's where Ken and his siblings were introduced to St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church where they began their religious education. As he grew older he joined the Luther League, a teen group, that shared many religious activities which also included camp trips to Wisconsin. He acquired many friends through the Church and maintained contact with them through the years.

Ken began his business career with General Electric as a Financial Management Trainee after graduating from the University of Illinois (1967) in economics. He became a member of General Electric's Traveling Audit Staff before joining Anaconda in 1973. At Anaconda Ken held various auditing, control and marketing positions while working in New York City, Louisville, Butte and Denver. In 1980 he joined Kennecott at its Salt Lake City headquarters and held various positions in control and marketing. In 1986 a joint venture was formed between Plexus, Kennecott and Kiewit where Ken was appointed Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Plexus Resources Corporation.

Ken returned to Elmhurst, Illinois where he worked for National Lift Truck for several years and retired. He worked part time for Home Depot in Sales until he retired to Maricopa, Arizona with his wife Dorothy. He loved spending time gardening, camping and he was an avid University of Illinois Fighting Illini fan.

Ken is survived by his wife of 29 years Dorothy, his daughter Liz Bird (Scott), Kenny (Julie) Townsend, grandson Kenny IV, Shirley Abderrazzaq (Jawad) and stepchildren John Miller (Renee), Nancy Anderson (Matt), Paul Miller (Ruth) and 8 other grandchildren (Shane and Isla Miller) (Kate and Will Anderson), and (Jacob, Charlotte, Violet and Henry Miller).

Ken was preceded in death by his parents Kenneth and Margaret Townsend, Sr., his sister Judith and most recently his sister Jan.

Memorial service will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Champaign, IL.



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