

Minister: Closing Prayer

God of boundless compassion,
our only sure comfort in distress:
Look tenderly upon your children.
Overwhelmed by loss and sorrow.
Lighten our darkness with your presence
and assure us of your love.
Enable us to see beyond this place and time
To your eternal kingdom,
Promised to all who love you,
In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.
Amen.

Blessing:

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
from this time forward and forever,
as it has always been.
Amen

*Ann's family thanks you for being here this afternoon.
We hope you will join us and spread the word that we
will have a special celebration of Ann's gift of life on
Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 at Palisades Presbyterian
Church. What better day than this to gather together in
Ann's name?*

*More information on the Day of Remembrance
and Celebration will be available in the days
ahead. Please feel free to call the church for more
information or if you have any questions.*

**Ann Gray's
Committal Service
March 11, 2006**

As we gather together today to
remember the life of Ann, and lay her
body in the earth she so loved and
respected, let us begin in unison with
prayer:

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, and our ignorance in
asking. Show us your grace, that as we face the mystery of
death we may see the light of eternity.

Speak to us once more your solemn message of life and
death. Help us to live as those 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,

Minister:

O God, before whom generations rise and pass away,
we praise you for all your servants
who, having this life in faith,
now live eternally with you.

Especially we thank you for your servant, Ann,
whose baptism is now complete in death,
We praise you for the gift of Ann's life,
for all in her that was good and kind and faithful,
for the grace you gave her,
that kindled in her for the love of your dear name,
and enabled her to serve you faithfully.

We thank you that for Ann death is past and pain ended and that she has now entered the joy you have prepared for us all through Jesus Christ. And your people say... **Amen.**

In Ann's Own Words:

On Deacon's Sunday, January 26, 2003, Ann offered the following words as her meditation.

In Ann's own words...

Today we are highlighting the role of deacons in service to God through service to our congregation. We all have different gifts, and it is wonderful when an enthusiasm can be a service. In my early days at Palisades Presbyterian – I think it was when Bruce Langsford was our minister – on many Sundays there were no flowers on the organ. One Sunday, I made an arrangement from my garden. After the service, I received an enthusiastic response. I was hooked, and my niche in the Sunday service established.

I like to be ingenuous and to find ways to celebrate the seasons without spending money. Contributions of flowers have always been welcome. These days, my garden is not as extensive as it used to be, but I like to bring the flowers in and try different effects. Also there has been the fun of contributing to parties and weddings. At the Strawberry Festival, the make-your-own bouquets from many contributed flowers are very popular.

In June 1999, Nadine Revheim surprised me with a photo album of some of my Sunday church arrangements, and the congregation was very generous with garden-related gifts at the coffee hour party. The vase you see on the organ was given to me that day by the Session. So much love has been shown, and I would like to do a better job of sharing my expertise. Perhaps some more flower arrangement classes would be fun! What are your undiscovered talents? We all can be deacons in a variety of ways.

This is an opportunity for those who may wish - to share some comments, at this time.

Minister: Committal Prayer

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life,
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,
we commend to Almighty God our sister Ann,
and we commit her body to the ground,
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

Let Us Pray: The Prayer of Jesus

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,
the power,
and the glory,
forever,
Amen.