

**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
A Service to Celebrate the Lives of
Carlene Beattie Lawrence & Susanne L. Mason**

I am the resurrection and the life.

*Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.*

John 11:25-6

Prelude

How Great Thou Art Nearer My God to Thee

Opening Words of Promise and Welcome

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome in this place.*

Call to Worship..... The 100th Psalm

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness. come into God's presence with singing.

**People: Know that the Lord is God. God is our Creator
and we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise.
Give thanks to God and bless God's holy name.

People: For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever and God's faithfulness to all generations.

Opening Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

All things Bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings
All things Bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all

The purple headed mountain, the rivers running by
The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.
All things Bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.
All things Bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all

Greeting

A Time of Prayer and Unison Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Scripture Reading and Reflections on Sue Mason by Rev. Peter Plagge

Ephesians 2:4-10

Memorial Song for Sue Mason.....*I Can Only Imagine*

Mercy Me

Scripture Reading and Reflections for Carlene Lawrence by Rev. Mark Mendes
Ruth 1:16-19, 2:5-12, 4:13-17
Philippians 4:4-9

A Time of Sharing for both Carlene and Sue

Thoughts from Michael and Carla Lawrence

A Reading by Kim Lawrence Sandercock “*We Remember Them*”
Other Memories, Stories and Sentiments from Family and Friends

Affirmation of Faith [Romans 8]

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we know that in everything God works for good with those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor heights, nor depths, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The Prayer of Saint Francis & Musical Response *The Prayer* Celine Dion & Josh Groban

Closing Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O God of my heart, nothing surpasses the love you impart;
You my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word, ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me, now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I heed not, nor life's empty praise, you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart, Great God my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joy, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own Heart, whatever be fall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Commendation

Pastoral Benediction

Postlude *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

God's Answer to Prayer

I asked for strength,
And God gave me difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for wisdom,
And God gave me problems to solve.

I asked for prosperity,
And God gave me brains and brawn to work

I asked for courage,
And God gave me danger to overcome.

I asked for love,
And God gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for favor,
And God gave me opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted.
I received everything I needed.

* The Bulletin cover for today's service was painted by Sue Mason.

* After the service, everyone is invited to the side lawn [Fellowship Hall if inclement weather] for a time of fellowship and food as we all gather to celebrate Carlene and Sues' lives and offer support to their families.