

First Congregation Church of Essex Junction

***A Service to Celebrate the Life of
Norma [Stormy Normy] Curtiss Edwards***



July 12, 1927 ~ October 7, 2023

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 11:25-26

Prelude

Opening Words of Promise and Welcome

Call to Worship.....Psalm 27

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People: When life's hardships enter my life, God promises to be with me.

When people seek to do me wrong, they shall stumble and fall.

**When it seems like the world is at war with my health and wholeness,
my confidence in God will overcome all fear.**

Leader: I only ask to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

to behold divine beauty and be a part of God's family.

Even though difficulties surround me,

faith allows me to sing for joy and make melodies to the Lord.

People: When I cry out, God will answer.

When I seek God's presence, it shall not be hidden.

When adversaries threaten and enemies forsake,

God will show me pathways of peace and love.

Leader: Trust in God and see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your hearts take courage.

Wait for the Lord to come to all of you!

***Opening Hymn**

This Is My Father's World

[insert]

Greeting

A Time of Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")**

Loving God, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever., Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament	Psalm 139:1-18	[page 448]	
	Psalm 23	[page 453]	Read by Clint Russell
New Testament	Luke 24:1-12	[page 68]	Read by Laurie Chipman
	Luke 2:36-38	[page 45]	

Funeral Meditation *Watch Out for the Over Old Lady on the Couch* Rev. Mark Mendes

***Hymn**

In The Garden

[insert]

A Time of Sharing

Grandchild Karen Shares Memories

A Poem for Norma by Lori Giannuzzi: *Flight of a Petal*

Words from a Younger than Young Adoring Fan.....Rev. Josh Simon

Other Memories, Sentiments and Stories of Norma

A Memorial Anthem

Clair De Lune

Emmy Stapleton &
Bethany Blake

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Commendation

***Closing Hymn**

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

[insert]

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

I'm Free

Anne Lindren Davison

***Sung Community Benediction**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, family all are we,
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, holding you in love.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

**Please stand as you are able*



*Everyone is invited downstairs for a time of food and fellowship.
You are encouraged to share stories of Norma and support her family.*