Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Natalie Sleeth, 1986
Services of Christian Worship to Celebrate Death and Resurrection

Counseling on the Occasion of Death

One of the most valuable services the Church provides at the time of death is that of pastoral counseling. The minister should be consulted immediately when a death occurs, for they are uniquely equipped to give those Christian services which the bereaved family needs (214-220-2727). The minister will meet with the family to arrange the services.

After hours, please call the church (214-220-2727) and follow the prompts. The minister on call will be contacted immediately. The clergy are happy to come to the home or hospital to be present in Christ and offer comfort and prayer with the bereaved. If death is not sudden or unexpected, we pray that the family will have been in touch with a member of the clergy prior to the death.

About Grief and the Need for Ceremony

The death of a loved one is a life-changing experience. Life is never quite the same after the death of someone you love. A meaningful, well-planned funeral or memorial service may bring comfort and the beginning of healing for broken hearts. The service can create divine momentum toward healing. Meaningful funerals and memorial services celebrate our loved one’s significant life by connecting us with our past, with those we love, and the hope of the promise of eternal life through faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Participating in a meaningful funeral or memorial service helps us begin to regain a sense of balance and to make that painful but necessary transition from life before the death, to new normal for life after the death.

Casket Coverings

The family may choose to place flowers or a pall on the casket. The use of a pall is a revival of an ancient Christian custom. The pall, a handsome cloth spread over the casket, is used as a witness that all are equal in God’s sight and each beloved by God, “as in baptism……..put on Christ, so in Christ may……..be clothed in glory.” A Christian service may also be enhanced by its simplicity in the faith that God looks within the heart and not on outward material things. To honor veterans, an American flag may drape the casket.
Because it may be difficult when under emotional stress to plan wisely, members are encouraged to discuss with their family in advance their wishes upon their death concerning the necessary arrangements that may include the Christian options of burial, cremation or donation for medical purposes. These plans may provide for arrangements that are simple and bear witness to resurrection hope.

**Services on the Occasion of Death**

The funeral or memorial service attempts to honor the life of the deceased, offer comfort to the grieving and recognize our dependence on the grace of God. Every aspect of the service should contribute to these three things. The clergy and staff will work with families in developing an appropriate service for your loved one.

On the day of the service, the family will be advised to gather in a designated area prior to the service. The minister will meet with the family and lead them into the Sanctuary. Photography during the service is inappropriate. All will be encouraged to silence their cell phones and other devices to ensure the sanctity of the service.

**Services with a Casket**

The distinction between a memorial service and a funeral service is the presence of the casket. A service with the casket is usually referred to as a “Funeral Service.” Without the casket, the service is referred to as a “Memorial Service.” Funeral practices are constantly evolving. If there is not a day and time designated as the “viewing”, the casket may be open prior to the service in the Methodist tradition.

**Cremation**

Cremation is a matter of personal preference. It is not inconsistent with the Christian faith. Niche-side services are available at cemeteries, mausoleums and/or columbaria. See other information about The Columbarium at FirstChurch.

**Services of Committal**

Interment may precede or follow the worship service. Members and friends of the family may gather at the graveside or columbarium for a service of farewell, which is to be conducted with simplicity, dignity and brevity. The service includes readings from scripture, prayers, words of committal and a blessing, reflecting the reality of death, entrusting the one who has died to the care of God, and bearing witness to faith in the resurrection from the dead. Because fraternal or civil rites are not part of the worship service, these organizations may pay tribute to the deceased before or following the Christian service.
Assisting Clergy

United Methodist clergy welcome clergy from other denominations to assist in the leadership of funerals and memorials at First United Methodist Church of Dallas. The officiating clergy of First United Methodist Church will extend the protocol of invitation, making the visiting clergy welcome and comfortable.

Honoraria

The provision of pastoral care and the funeral/memorial service is an integral part of our church's ministry and its care for its members. For this reason, there is no fee required for home visitations, the use of church facilities, or the participation of the FirstChurch clergy and staff. In instances where members still wish to show appreciation by providing an honorarium to participants, such gestures are certainly acceptable. We recommend – in recognition of the vital importance of music in any worship service – that such gestures not be exclusive to clergy participants but also include musical participants as well.

Facilities and Services of the Church

Members of the church will be ushers. The church will provide a printed worship guide to aid the congregants in following the order of the service. The ushers will distribute the programs. It is important to have ushers to assist with seating and to further ensure the comfort of those attending the service. A color photo may be printed in the worship guide and displayed on the electronic monitors around the church to celebrate the deceased. Arrangements may be made to provide a reception immediately prior to or following the service. Cookies and beverages will be provided by the church. If requested by the family, sandwiches will be provided for a nominal fee. A guest book may also be provided by the church.

The Mourning After

Pastoral care will be offered during the grief recovery period. Means of Christian compassion in the months following the death of a loved one can be expected by the bereaved. Ongoing ways of honoring and remembering a loved one may be guided by the clergy.

Grief is hard work. Healthy grief reconciliation will allow the mourner to adjust to the new reality of moving forward in life without the loved one. The presence of clergy or a Christian companion can offer a more grace-filled experience through the love of Christ. As a means of God's healing grace, Grief Support Groups and Healing Services may be offered by First United Methodist Church of Dallas.
Music

Music is a universally unifying medium that can bring comfort to mourners and speak for them when words are inadequate. Clergy will work with the organist or Director of Music & Arts and the family in all decisions on music selection. Arrangements for soloists or instrumentalists may be made through the Director of Music & Arts.

Congregational hymns are encouraged as a wonderful instrument to celebrate the life of the deceased. Listed later in this booklet are suggested hymns appropriate for a funeral or memorial service.

A Service of Death and Resurrection

A Service of Death and Resurrection is found in The United Methodist Hymnal 870-875. It is a service of Christian worship suitable for funeral and memorial services. This service is intended for use with the body of the deceased present, but it can be adapted for use at memorial services or other occasions.

Use of the term Service of Death and Resurrection is not intended to discourage use of the more familiar terms – funeral, burial of the dead or memorial service. Funeral is appropriate for a service with the body of the deceased present. Burial of the Dead is appropriate for a service where the remains of the deceased are buried. Memorial Service is appropriate when the body of the deceased is not present. Service of Death and Resurrection was selected as being appropriate to any of the wide variety of situations in which this service might be used. It expresses clearly the two-fold nature of what is done: the fact of death and bereavement are honestly faced, and the gospel of resurrection is celebrated in the context of God's Baptismal Covenant with us in Christ.

When circumstances make the service as it stands, inappropriate, the pastor may make adaptations, using the alternative acts of worship on 158-166 and other available resources. Ethnic and cultural traditions are encouraged and may be incorporated in the service at the discretion of the minister.

From The United Methodist Book of Worship
### Suggested Hymns from *The United Methodist Hymnal*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>A Mighty Fortress is our God</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>I Love to Tell the Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td>Abide with Me</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>I'll Praise my Maker</td>
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<tr>
<td>378</td>
<td>Amazing Grace</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>In the Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>534</td>
<td>Be Still My Soul</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>It is well with my Soul</td>
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<tr>
<td>451</td>
<td>Be Thou my Vision</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>Joyful, Joyful, we Adore Thee</td>
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<tr>
<td>369</td>
<td>Blessed Assurance</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>Lead on O King Eternal</td>
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<tr>
<td>302</td>
<td>Christ the Lord is Risen Today</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>Lift High the Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>189</td>
<td>Fairest Lord Jesus</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>Love Divine, all Love Excelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>710</td>
<td>Faith of our Fathers</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>Morning has Broken</td>
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<tr>
<td>711</td>
<td>For all the Saints</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>My Hope is Built on Nothing Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>For the Beauty of the Earth</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>O for a Thousand Tongues to sing</td>
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<tr>
<td>577</td>
<td>God of Grace and God of Glory</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>On Eagle's Wings</td>
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<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Great is Thy Faithfulness</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</td>
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<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>How Great Thou Art</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>Shall we Gather at the River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>707</td>
<td>Hymn of Promise</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>Surely the Presence of the Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>261</td>
<td>I Danced in the Morning</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>This is my Fathers World</td>
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### A Service for a Child

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>Children of the Heavenly Father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>707</td>
<td>Hymn of Promise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>191</td>
<td>Jesus Loves me</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Cokesbury Hymns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>231</td>
<td>His Eye is on the Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>199</td>
<td>Sweet By and By</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Jesus is Calling</td>
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### The Faith we Sing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2051</td>
<td>I was There to Hear Your Borning Cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2282</td>
<td>I'll Fly Away</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Suggested Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27 I know that my redeemer lives

Isaiah 25: 6-9 God will swallow up death forever
26: 1-4, 19 God will keep them in peace
40: 1-11, 28-31 Comfort my people...those who wait for the Lord
44: 6-8 I am the first and the last
55: 1-3, 6-13 Ho, everyone who thirsts
65: 17-25 I create new heavens and a new earth

Lamentations
3: 22-26, 31-33 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
Great is thy faithfulness

Ecclesiastes
3: 1-5, 9 For everything there is a season
7: 1 A good name is better than precious ointment
and the day of death, than the day of birth

Psalms 23 The Lord is my shepherd
27: 1, 4-9a, 13-14 The Lord is my light and my salvation
42: 1-6a As a deer longs for flowing streams
46: 1-5, 10-11 God is our refuge and strength
Be still and know that I am God
90: 10-11, 12 Teach us to number our days
103: 1-5, 15-18 Bless the Lord, O my soul
121 I lift up my eyes to the hills

Proverbs 31:10-12, 20-21, 25-31 A good woman who can find

New Testament

Matthew 11: 28-30 Come to me, all who labor...and I will give you rest

Luke 18: 15-17 We enter the Kingdom only as children
23: 39-43 Today you will be with me in Paradise

John 3: 16-21 God so loved he world
11: 25-27 I am the resurrection and the life
5: 24-27 Whoever hears and believes has eternal life
6: 37-40 Anyone who comes to me I will not cast out
10: 11-16 I am the good shepherd
14: 1-6, 25-27 Let not your hearts be troubled
In my Father's house are many mansions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Romans 8:14-23, 31-39</td>
<td>Nothing can separate from the love of God</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans 14: 7-9, 10b-12</td>
<td>Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians 15: 51</td>
<td>Christ raised from the dead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revelation</td>
<td>Rest for the saints</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14: 1-3, 6-7, 12-13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revelation</td>
<td>A new heaven and a new earth</td>
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</table>
Traditional Methodist Service Order

Gathering
  The family will gather with the pastor before the service for prayer.

Words of Grace and Greeting
  Words of greeting are delivered by a pastor.

Hymn or Song
  A congregational hymn, or special music may be sung.

Affirmation of Faith
  The Creed led by the pastor.

Gloria Patri
  Sung or spoken by the congregation.

Pastoral Prayer
  Offered by the pastor.

The Lord's Prayer
  Spoken by the congregation if it is not included at the Committal Service.

Scripture Readings

Hymn
  A congregational hymn or special music may be sung (optional).

Reflection
  Memories shared by family or friends may be offered as planned ahead.

Hymn
  A congregational hymn or special music may be sung (optional).

Message/Meditation
  Delivered by the pastor

Hymn
  A closing hymn or special music may be sung.

Benediction
  A blessing usually offered by the pastor.
To Be Considered at the Time of a Death

The following is a process that might be used at the time of the death of a loved one.

1. Call the church (214-220-2727) to contact your clergy, as their experience and concern for you will be very helpful. Your pastor can assist with scheduling issues and answer immediate questions. Please consult with a clergy person before finalizing or announcing service date and time.

2. Locate any document prepared by the deceased which indicates their wishes as to a Christian burial.

3. If such a document does not exist, or cannot be found, and you have not heard the deceased express any opinion in regard to the following, then examine your own position.

   a. Do you, or did the deceased, wish to be cremated? Do you, or did the deceased, wish to donate their body to medical science?

   b. Choose a funeral director and call them if not already done, asking that they take the body into custody and await further word on your plans. If the death occurs in a hospital, the hospital will call the funeral director for you, upon your direction. If death occurs under hospice care, hospice will make all necessary arrangements, upon your direction.

   c. Think about the kind of service you desire and the location:
      A funeral service with the body or cremains present
      A memorial service
      Funeral Home, Church, or Columbarium
      Simple graveside service

4. Some questions to ask:

   a. Is there a cemetery plot? Who owns it? Where is the recording document?

   b. If you need to buy a plot, where will it be and how many spaces will you need? You may want to consider future burials.

   c. In an effort to avoid undue expenses, prayerfully consider the kind of casket or urn you desire.

   d. If there are cremains, what will be their disposition style?
      Perhaps you might consider the Columbarium at FirstChurch.
5. Determine whether or not you will have visitation at the funeral home.

6. Closed casket or open at the funeral home? In the Methodist church tradition, the casket is usually closed during the service.

7. Who should be notified? Who will phone or write them?

8. Who is coming from a distance? Has the scheduling of the service taken this into consideration?

9. Decide on the designation of memorial gifts.

10. Decide on two or three persons to meet with the funeral director to make arrangements, choose the casket or urn, and clarify clothing questions for the deceased. All plans will coordinate with the pastor and church.

   a. Full name.
   b. Date and place of birth.
   c. Date of death.
   d. Father's full name.
   e. Mother's full name (including her maiden name)
   f. Survivors (identify spouse and children by name, number of grandchildren, names of sisters, brothers, significant others,)
   g. Memberships (historical societies, service organizations, clubs, church, activities in church and community, etc.)
   h. Names of newspapers in which death notices and obituary items should appear (include local papers and also out-of-town papers, wherever there are friends to inform). Classified death notices are paid by you, usually through the funeral director who places the notices with the newspapers. Longer obituary news items based on the above information may be prepared and submitted to newspapers; they will be published at the editor's discretion.
   i. Social Security number.
   j. Military serial or service number may be obtained through the Veteran's Administration.

11. After the service day and time has been confirmed through the clergy with the church, and agreed upon with the funeral director, family may begin to notify other family and friends about the arrangements.
Personal Information for my Family to Assist in Planning
(or to be used as a reminder list)

Vital life statistics

Full Legal Name______________________________________________________

Address_____________________________________________________________

Phone / cell __________________________________________________________

Place of birth (city, county, state)_______________________________________

Spouse's name _________________________________________________________

___ Widowed             ___Divorced

Father's name, birthplace, and date of birth / death_______________________

__________________________________________________________

Mother's maiden name, birthplace, and date of birth / death________________

__________________________________________________________

Length of residence in the state________________________________________

Social security number_________________________________________________

Employer________________________ Type of Business_____________________

Education_____________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Location of / deed to cemetery plot_____________________________________

Number of death certificates required___________________________________

(The funeral home usually provides three copies; perhaps nine or ten will be necessary and can be obtained through the funeral home.)
Persons in my family who remain to celebrate my life
(Identify spouse and children by name; number of grandchildren; names of parents, sisters, brothers and significant others; be careful to spell correctly.)

________________________ ____________________________________________
________________________ ____________________________________________
________________________ ____________________________________________

Name and telephone number of my attorney________________________________

________________ ______________________________________________

Name and telephone number of funeral home to be contacted__________________

________________ ______________________________________________

Contact for death benefits:
Social Security___________________________________________________
Life Insurance__________________________________________________
Financial Advisor ________________________________________________

Location of Health Information____________________________________________

Primary Physicians____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Request for donation of body or parts thereof___________________________
(e.g., Southwest Transplant Alliance, Southwestern Medical School)

Location of personal papers
Will______________________________________________________________
Birth Certificate___________________________________________________
School and College Diplomas________________________________________
Marriage Certificate_______________________________________________
Other (i.e., legal papers, safe deposit box and keys)________________________
Location of information about all assets

Bank Accounts
- Savings
- Checking
- Canceled checks
- Bank books

Investment Information
- Name and telephone of broker(s)
- Treasury Bonds / Notes / Bills
- Money Market Accounts(s)
- Stock Information
- Other

Information about home
- Location of Deed / Lease / Mortgage
- Insurance information
- Warranty information
- Information regarding other property(ies)

Location of information about automobiles(s)
- Registration
- Insurance
- Title
- Maintenance records
- Warranty

Income tax information
- Location of previous and current year's records
- Name and telephone number of accountant

Information regarding a “Living Will” / Directive to Physicians, Health Care Proxy, Power of Attorney
Military Information

Branch of Service_________________ Service serial number_________________
Date entered Service______________ Place____________________________________
Date of Separation_______________ Place____________________________________
Grade, rank, or rating_______________________________________________________
Wars / conflicts served_______________________________________________________
Additional information_______________________________________________________

Children

Name Address Phone
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Persons to be Notified

Name Address Phone
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Organizations to be Notified

Name Address Phone
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
My Funeral / Memorial Service

I, ________________________________, would like to encourage you to cause my funeral / memorial service to be a worship service of hope and celebration. Gather to give thanks to God for the reality of the Resurrection.

Listed below are my wishes at this time for my service and burial.

Name of church or cemetery or columbarium________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Located at____________________________________________________________

Clergy: ______________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Contacts for clergy____________________________________________________

Lodge / Veteran Service by______________________________________________

Casket / Urn__________________________________________________________

Music I like

Hymns to be sung by congregation___________________________________

________________ _______________________________________________

Hymns to be played by organist______________________________________

________________ _______________________________________________

Special Music _________ ___________________________________________

Soloist_______________ ___________________________________________

Scripture Selections __________________________________________________

________________ _______________________________________________

You may read all or a portion of these and include others as loved ones request. You may invite others to share memories during the service or at the graveside / columbarium.
Possible Pallbearers


In lieu of flowers, make gifts to


The Columbarium at FirstChurch

Generations of individuals and families have shaped their life in Christ through our community at the corner of Ross and Harwood. As Christians we know that death is never the final word. Where better to celebrate and honor this truth than within the very space where we have most often shared in the life and love of Jesus Christ?

The Columbarium at FirstChurch is a consecrated area beneath the Narthex that is a symbol of God’s spirit and peace. It provides a quiet, peaceful place for remembrance, meditation and prayer where urns of cremated remains are stored. The traditional churchyard for burial is long past, but The Columbarium at FirstChurch is recapturing the sense of the church as the final resting place for its present and former members and their families.

Considering the expense of cemetery burials today, The Columbarium at FirstChurch offers a significant savings. You may purchase a niche as a memorial even if cremains are placed elsewhere. The Columbarium will be well maintained by our housekeeping and custodial staff as part of our continued stewardship of our church.

To secure a niche, please call the church office at 214-220-2727 and ask to speak with a staff representative, or find more information on the church website: firstchurchdallas.org/columbarium.

FirstFoundation

FirstFoundation is a permanent endowment fund established to enable FirstChurch to grow in mission and ministry, so that future generations may know the love of Christ. With a variety of giving options, FirstFoundation invites members to invest in the church’s long-range vision, and friends and family may give as a lasting way to honor a loved one.

The intent of FirstFoundation is to build a long-term fund to support FirstChurch, and gifts of any size are welcome. The fund receives gifts of cash, bequests, life insurance proceeds, retirement accounts, real estate and more.

As the fund grows, disbursements will be used to support programs, ministries, and capital improvements that are not included in the annual budget of the church. For more information, please contact the church office at 214-220-2727 to speak with a finance office representative.
The next day, Wesley took a fever and began to decline rapidly.

His housekeeper...was at his side throughout the following week and recorded the events in some detail. The account reflects the *ars moriendi* tradition at its best, personifying the principles laid down in Jeremy Taylor's *Rules and Exercises for Holy Dying*. On March 1, the feeble Wesley gathered his strength and began singing Isaac Watts' hymn, “I'll Praise my Maker While I've Breath,” which astonished those attending him. Further attempts to sing or speak were quite unsuccessful; “those lips which used to feed many, were no longer able to convey their accustomed sounds.” He was able to gather up his strength for one of his last utterances, “The best of all is, God is with us.” On the following morning, March 2, 1791, he uttered his last, “Farewell” (*JWJ*, 8:138-44).

Wesley's quest for assurance, which gave impetus to his spiritual pilgrimage, was over. His search for peace had known both the despair of fear and the hope of faith. His warmed heart had experienced both the assurance of God's loving forgiveness and the continuing struggle with doubt. His restless heart that had found a trusting and confident faith but had on occasion wavered, had now found its rest with God. Wesley had long lived in the presence of his Maker, in fear of God's judgment and yet trusting in divine justice, in awe of God's majesty and yet confident in his gracious love, in expectation of continual surprises from God's Spirit and yet hoping through it all for guidance and comfort. So that at his death, Wesley knew of what he spoke when, from a heart that had long sought peace, he uttered his final testimony of faith,

“The best of all is, ... God is with us.”

*Wesley and the People Called Methodists,*  
by Richard P. Heitzenrater  
Abingdon Press, 1995
We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
    to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
    our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
    God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Amen.

A Statement of Faith
of the United Church of Canada