



THE REV. DR. JANET A. LONG

June 15, 1956 – March 26, 2024

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND THE PROMISE OF RESURRECTION

Washington Avenue Christian Church
301 Washington Ave
Elyria, OH 44035

Saturday, April 13, 2024; 11:00am

Prelude

Sol M. Rizzato

Chiming of the Hour

The Atwood Carillon

Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays;
 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
 Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus, stars of morn - ing, take your part;

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of the un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, bind - ing those of ten - der heart.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive our fear of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea;
 Thou, Cre - a - tor, Christ our broth - er, all who live in the love are thine;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife,

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy in di - vine.
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward, in the tri - umph song of life.

Words of Welcome

Lauri Warfield

Prayer

Sharon Watkins

Eulogy

Gary W. Kidwell

Hymn 648

Some There Are Who by Their Living²

GREENCASTLE

Some there are who by their liv - ing lift us to a high - er plane,
 Some there are who by their lov - ing lead us far be - yond our fears,
 Some there are who by their dy - ing draw us clos - er to the Light,
 Thanks to God for those in - vit - ing us to live more faith - ful - ly!

find - ing joy dis - closed in sor - row, heal - ing hid - den in their pain.
 show - ing us by their com - pas - sion, ha - tred washed a - way by tears.
 find - ing death a bless - ed jour - ney in - to that most gra - cious night.
 Thanks to God for those who show us rich - er lives of char - i - ty!

They are drawn by that bright - er vi - sions, glad to give all they pos - sess
 When con - tempts that sting of know - ing, fill us with hos - til - i - ty,
 When we feel the sting of know - ing, that our days are brief and swift,
 Thanks for those we see no long - er, but whose mem - ries in us lie!

for a great - er good, dis - cov - 'ring ho - lier depths of hap - pi - ness.
 we have hope be - cause of per - sons who have known love's lib - er - ty,
 we re - mem - ber those whose liv - ing met each mo - ment as a gift.
 Thanks to God for those who teach us how to live and how to die!

Words from the Regional Church

Allen V. Harris

Reading

Mark 14:3-9

Allie Lundblad

Reading

1 Corinthians 13

Debra Huffman

Message

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn 637

*For All the Saints*³

SINE NOMINE

Benediction

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

Sol M. Rizzato

Participants in the Service

Mx. Sol M. Rizzato (they/them) is the Director of Worship & the Arts at Washington Avenue Christian Church. In addition to their responsibilities at WACC, Sol is an organ builder for Muller Piper Organ Company. Earlier this year, Sol matriculated into the Master of Divinity degree program at Methodist Theological School in Ohio and is under the care of the Christian Church in Ohio. Sol & Janet shared many conversations about WACC's pipe organ and its critical and foundational role in worship.

Ms. Lauri Warfield is the Vice Chair of the Board and a second-generation Elder-For-Life at Washington Avenue Christian Church. In her early twenties, Lauri was a cabin counselor at Camp Christian, and one of her campers was a youth named Janet Long. During Janet's pastorate at WACC, Lauri served in several lay leadership roles.

The Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, Disciples General Minister and President (2005-2017), served on the General Board during Janet Long's tenure as moderator. They served together on the UCC/DOC Partnership Committee and later the Bethany College President's Council on Multi-Cultural Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Janet chaired the audit committee of the General Board during Sharon's term as GMP.

The Rev. Gary W. Kidwell is President of the Christian Church Foundation. He and Janet Long have been friends for nearly 40 years. Janet was chair of the Foundation Board of Directors when Gary was named President. In addition to serving together at the CCF, Janet and Gary worked together on the Audit Committee for the denomination and on multiple church-wide task groups.

The Rev. Allen V. Harris (he/him) is the Regional Pastor and President of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ). Previously, he served as Regional Minister for the Christian Church Capital Area as well as a local church pastor in Ohio, New York, and Texas. For many years, Allen served nearby Franklin Circle Christian Church and was a clergy colleague with Janet Long in District 2A.

The Rev. Allie Lundblad (she/her) has served as the pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Arlington Heights, Illinois, since fall of 2016. She is a 2015 MDiv graduate of the University of Chicago Divinity School and completed her undergraduate degree in religion at Oberlin College in Ohio. While at Oberlin, Allie was an integral part of Washington Avenue Christian Church and is grateful to have had Janet as a mentor and model in ministry.

The Rev. Debra Huffman was the roommate of Janet Long during their first year at Brite Divinity School (1978-1979). Janet officiated at Debra's wedding in 1979, and in 1987, Debra participated in the wedding of Janet Long and Dan Clark at WACC (reading and commenting on 1 Corinthians 13). Debra retired in 2015 as the Senior Pastor of First Christian Church in Canyon, Texas.

The Rev. Nathan A. Russell (he/him) is the Senior Pastor of Washington Avenue Christian Church. In September 2018, he joined the church staff and overlapped with Janet Long for almost three weeks. Together, Janet and Nathan cultivated a collegial friendship as colleagues and collectively dreamed of a pastoral transition that would strengthen the body of Christ at WACC.

The Reverend Doctor Janet A. Long, 67, of Elyria, Ohio, died unexpectedly in her sleep at her home on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. She was born June 15, 1956, in Warren, Ohio, and grew up in Crooksville, Ohio. A 3rd Generation lifelong Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister, she retired as Senior Pastor of Washington Avenue Christian Church, Elyria, in 2018 after 33 1/3 years of service and was a member of the church.

Long graduated from Bethany College (Bethany, West Virginia) in 1977 and earned a Master of Divinity from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, Texas) in 1981. She remained active with both institutions, serving as Trustee at Bethany College since 1994 and Brite Divinity School since 2012. In 1996, Bethany College awarded her an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. More recently she was on the search committees to select new presidents for each of these Institutions.

A pioneer among women in ministry, Long was the first graduate from her class at Brite Divinity School to be called to a pastoral position, and the only female to ever achieve this coveted honor. Her first position was the Senior Pastor of Clyde Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Clyde, Ohio. In 1985, she was called to be the Senior Pastor of the prestigious Washington Avenue Christian Church in Elyria, Ohio in an era when women typically were not considered for such an assignment. Following her retirement from full-time local-church ministry, Long worked with the denomination's Center for Faith and Giving on programs of stewardship and generosity.

Active in volunteer leadership, Long served as Chair of the Board of Directors, Foundation Board Member, and on other boards at Elyria Memorial Hospital (now University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center) for more than three decades. Since 1989, she was active in Elyria Noon Rotary and was a past president.

Long was elected Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), its highest non-paid staff leadership position, a two-year term ending by her leading the denomination's 1997 General Assembly in Denver with more than 8,000 attendees. Her service across the denomination included Christian Church Finance Council and Christian Church Foundation Board of Directors, where she participated for nearly a decade including two years as Chair. On the Christian Church Pension Fund Board, Long was part of the audit committee and chaired the Board's presidential search. She was faithful, insightful, dedicated, and an effective leader. She was truly a generational talent. During college and beyond, Long dedicated her time to youth and students as staff member and then counselor at Camp Christian, the denomination's summer camp in Magnetic Springs, Ohio. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), its members, and its institutions were blessed by her life, ministry, generosity, and legacy.

Survivors include Colonel Daniel D. Clark of Elyria, her husband of more than 37 years; sisters Rachel Long Mattox of Tampa and Barbara Long of Elyria; stepchildren DeAnna Clark Gibson (Jim Gibson), Denise Clark Bridges (Alan Bridges), and Cathleen Clark Padro (Michael Padro); four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Reverend Arthur E. Long and Carolyn Long (nee Crook) of Elyria.

Memorial contributions may be made to the following: The Janet A. Long Memorial Fund, Washington Avenue Christian Church; 301 Washington Avenue; Elyria, OH 44035; the Janet A. Long Scholarship Fund; Bethany College; 31 East Campus Dr; Bethany, WV 26032; the Janet A. Long Ministerial Education Fund at Brite Divinity School; Office of Advancement; Brite Divinity School; TCU Box 298130; Fort Worth, TX 76129.

¹WORDS: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt; MUSIC: Beethoven, 1824
³WORDS: William W. How, 1864, alt. MUSIC: RVW, 1906

²WORDS & MUSIC: David L. Edwards, 1992
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