

Glenda Morrow Memorial Service - July 30, 2010

Prelude music "In the Sweet Bye and Bye."

Welcome, opening remarks, prayer

Vocal solo: "In the Garden." David Morrow, Baritone

Scripture readings:

Psalm 121

Psalm 23

Congregational Hymn: "Amazing Grace." # 275

Scripture readings:

1 Corinthians 13:1-12

John 14:1-6

Prayers, Lord's Prayer

Sermon

Congregational Hymn: "How Great Thou Art." (Handout).

Benediction and Serenity Prayer

Postlude music

Glenda Morrow, July 30, 2010.

We're here to celebrate and remember Glenda Morrow's full and gracious life.

Glenda Joyce Pike was born on November 23, 1934, in Guthrie Oklahoma. She married Charles Morrow on September 20, 1950, in Post. Hmm. Put down the three, carry the one - she was 15 years old at the time. The family legend is that she and Charles caught each other's attention while Glenda car-hopped at what is now Holly's Drive in. Some bit later, Charles drove by in a Jeep - along with three other girls. Glenda tossed a Coca cola in his direction - and that apparently sealed the deal. That, and his promise that she would never have to move again. They were married for over fifty years, all spent together in Post, Texas, and this good family remains their greatest legacy.

We begin by the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and in Communion with the Holy Spirit. Let us pray:

Prayer: Our God of grace and glory, we remember and honor Glenda today and we thank you for giving her to us to know and to love. By your compassionate presence, console us in our mourning. Inspire in us the confidence of a certain faith, the comfort of holy hope, and the peace which passes all understanding; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Vocal solo: "In the Garden." David Morrow, Baritone

Scripture readings:

Psalm 121

**I lift up mine eyes unto the hills. From whence cometh my help?
My help cometh from the Lord, who made the heavens and the earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.
The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and for evermore.**

Psalm 23

**The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake
Ye though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

I will fear no evil for thou art with me.
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.
Thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Congregational hymn: "Amazing Grace." # 275.

Scripture readings:

1 Corinthians 13:1-12

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ... (For) love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues; they will cease; as for knowledge; it will pass away. (But) faith, hope, and love abide these three; (and) the greatest of these is love.

John 14:1-3.

Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so would I have told you that I go and prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am, you may be also.

Prayers, Lord's Prayer

God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all. We pray that we might be ever more certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which comes to us in Christ Jesus.

We pray now together as our Lord taught us:

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen.

Homily

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions. ... I go and prepare a place for you.”

There is no explaining why she had Robin for short a time, and was without him for so long thereafter. But I believe this with all I have. If he has had any part in preparing a place for her, it must be quite a mansion by now. The family has a photographic treasure - Glenda, Charles, and Robin standing and smiling with joy in the great out-of-doors. And now they are together again. I suspect Glenda’s working on quite a mural to catch the morning sun in paradise. Robin’s short life defined much of who Glenda came to be. Her gift from God was to paint. Painting, like all forms of art - music, sculpture, oratory, photography - is an expression of feeling and emotion. Often as not, art is the only way that what the artist feels can find the light of day.

Glenda’s studio has a window that lets in the morning sun. The sunrise brings light to the darkness of night. There are still quite a few paintings on the walls and shelves of that room, and several more on the walls throughout the house. Unlike many artists, Glenda’s work cannot be defined by category. Realist. Impressionist. Abstract expressionist. There are examples of all these and many others. For Glenda’s life and work and art is full of many feelings. There is a still life of fruits, vegetables, and dishes that is nearly photographic in detail. But darkly shadowed. Almost foreboding. Another of her works depicts - with an almost animated delight - an underwater scene of sea-horses, flowers, fish, and coral. Brightly lit. Another still life of flowers uses a more abstract approach - you have to look closely to see what she is showing. And a few others are quite like this one - fully abstract and almost raw in the feeling that apparently went into it. This one is a particular is a treasure Glenda gave to Jeanie and me a couple of years ago. We have it in our living room, and think of her every day. Glenda’s art is full of the fullness of deep feeling and emotion.

“Faith, hope, and love abides, these three, but the greatest of these is love.”

There is a good reason that the greatest of these is love. All of the colors of the rainbow - colors that Glenda used throughout her life to express deep feeling and emotion - combine and become white light. Sunlight. Moonlight. Fire light. Light is the sum of all colors. By way of analogy, love is the sum of all feelings. Feelings that soothe and comfort, and those that frighten us and bring us to grief. To be in love is to know the fullness of feeling. There is no greater joy than to be in the company of someone who accepts you as you are, and by whose example inspires you to be the best you can be.

No one can hurt us - or heal us - like someone we love. Think about it - there would be no need of anger, or guilt , or even fear with regard to another person if

there was no love between us. The opposite of love is not hate - it is indifference. Those toward whom we have no feeling cause us very little pain.

On the other hand, the gentle peace when we fully enjoy being present with another - and the sweet relief of forgiveness - that makes it all worth it.

Those we love - especially when we face the loss of another of those we love - force us into deep feeling. And we learn to cope. When we share what we've learned, and how we came to use our gifts, we leave it better than we found it.

For Glenda - the painter and the teacher - her art gave life to what she felt. Her work is part of her legacy. But only in part.

Davis's musical voice honors the source of his life. Melissa's spirit gives others hope. Daniel's humor sees his people through the day. William's strength gives courage.

But the list of Glenda's family legacy has grown. Will and Lisa's Zachary, Lindsay, and Alissa. Daniel and Rhonda's Heather - who with Shawn now have Derrick and Tiffany. Jenny has Dymon and Sheridan. Tanya and Robbie have Blake. Sierra and Jason have Gracie and Abby. I wasn't told if Glenda actually hit Charles with that Coca cola. But look at what all she started.

This family is full of deep feeling. A depth of spirit and character that honor Glenda and Charles. And Robin - together again. And who, in the company of their Lord, continue to prepare a place. We will all take our place there one day, and, for now, do and be what we are in this place, shaped and taught by those who have gone before us. We honor their gifts by how we share our days.

To Honor Glenda - Go into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good. Return to no-one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Speak and act with love on your lips and in your heart. And finally, let us pray - pray with me if you know these words - Lord, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change. The courage to change the things we can. And the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Congregational Hymn: "How Great Thou Art." (Handout).

Benediction and commendation: Into your hands O merciful savior we commend your servant Glenda Joyce. Acknowledge her, we pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of all the saints in light. Amen.

Let us go in Peace. The service continues at the grave-site.