

*A Witness to the Resurrection and
The Celebration of Life*

Carol L. Bess

September 19, 1949 - August 1, 2026



First Presbyterian Church, Olean, NY

August 9, 2026, 11:15am

Rev. Marilyn Hale
Christine Berardi, Guest Musician

Prelude

Gathering

The Assurance from Scripture

*Hymn ~ *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* ~ No. 611

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus
which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Opening Prayer

Scripture Readings

John 14:1-3

¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house, there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

Matthew 12:46-50

⁴⁶While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. ⁴⁷Someone told him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” ⁴⁸But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹And pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

A Few Thoughts ~ Rev. Marilyn Hale

Solo ~ *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* ~ Lanna Waterman

A Reading ~ *Cindy’s Letter to Carol*

Remembrances of Carol

Raise your hand and wait for the microphone, please

Unison Reading ~ Psalm 23 ~ A Psalm of David

¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd;

I shall not want.

**² He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.**

³ He restores my soul;

**He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name’s sake.**

**⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;**

For You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

**⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence
of my enemies;**

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

**⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;**

**And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever.**

Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, 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 debts as we for-
give our debtors, and lead us not into tempta-
tion but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

* Closing Hymn ~ *Here I Am, Lord* ~ No. 69

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? (*Refrain*)

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? (*Refrain*)

*The Commendation

*The Blessing

The Postlude ~ *For All The Saints* ~ R. V. Williams

*Following the service, everyone is invited to
join in Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour,
featuring a variety of homemade
brownies - a loving tribute to Carol,
who faithfully brought her brownies
to so many church gatherings.
We hope you'll stay to share memories
and celebrate her life.*

