

Kathryn O' Connor Kuhn



November 8, 1969 – November 2, 2020

Prayer for Use as We Prepare to Worship God

Gracious God, You are the One who breathed the breath of life into us. We give thanks for your Son who redeems us from the power of sin and death. We concede the powerful mysteries of life that are beyond our power to control. Grant that we may have courage to follow the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP THAT GIVES WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

May 8, 2021 Eleven o'clock in the Morning

PRELUDE "Minuet in G" J.S. Bach

RINGING OF THE BELL

"Kathy's Piece" David Austin

*Composed by a dear friend of the O'Connor family
for Kathryn when she was about ten years old.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn
November 8, 1969 – November 2, 2020
Wife of Karl Kuhn;
Mother of Joshua (Gianna Pornasdoro) Kuhn
and Clare Kuhn,
Daughter of Gerald and the late Barbara O'Connor;
Sister of David (Lisa) O'Connor**

RECITAL OF GOD'S PROMISES

CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME Pastor Eric Kirkegaard

***THE DAY'S PRAYER**

Holy God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we remember before you this afternoon our beloved sister and friend, Kathryn Kuhn. We thank you for the gift of her life, and for the opportunity we had to know and love Kathryn during our pilgrimage on earth. In your compassion, be with us in our sorrow. In your mercy, bless us with

the mind of Christ so we may see in death the gate to eternal life. As we continue our journey on earth, strengthen us in our faith and awaken us to the nearness of your presence until we are united with those who have gone before us. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

(If you are masked, we invite you to rise and sing quietly.)

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine, to our race so freely given;
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

THE WORD OF GOD

Mark 14:3-9

Pastor Kim Henning

**THE MESSAGE OF OUR FAITH/
A TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN KUHN**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD' PRAYER

(Our Father--Mother, who is in the heavens, may your name be glorified, may your dominion come, may your will be done, on the earth as it is in heaven. Give us today the bread we need; and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors; and do not put us to the test, but rescue us from evil. For yours is the dominion, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.)

EULOGIES

Isaiah 43:1-7

Pastor Steve Savides

Esther 4:14

Pastor Becky Johnston

Micah 6:6-8

Pastor Nick Hatch

Poem

Clare Kuhn

A LITURGY FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE

We pray to you, Lord God, our Heavenly Father. You created us in your image and you knit us together into the mystical body of the church. We pray for the gathered church in heaven and on earth. Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise with Christ in joyful resurrection.

We walk by faith. We trust that you lead us by the strength and power of your Holy Spirit.

We come humbly before you, O God. Grant us pardon from all our sins and also that peace which passes all human understanding.

We pray that you would grant us who mourn a certain confidence of faith that our grief may be consoled by your steadfast love.

Grant us courage that we may have strength to meet an uncertain future with hope and a joyful expectation of eternal life.

In the midst of things we cannot understand, help us to believe and know that your power for life reaches beyond the grave.

Grant us grace to entrust Kathryn Kuhn to your never-failing love.
Receive her kindly into your arms of mercy.

Though the shadow of death weighs heavily upon us, grant that your perfect love may comfort us in our deepest need.

O God, we humbly pray that the crown of life may be given to all who have died in our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Be Thou My Vision”

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Melody: SLANE (trad. Irish)

Text: attr. St. Dallan Forgaill; trans. Eleanor Hull; adapted by Karl A. Kuhn

(If you are masked, we invite you to rise and sing quietly.)

**Be thou my Vision, O Love of my heart;
Nothing else capture me or tear apart---
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Most High of heaven, my Treasure thou art.**

**Most High of Heaven, our victory won,
May we reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!
Heart of our own heart, whatever befall,
Still be our Vision, O Savior of all.**

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

“Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling”

Musicians

Sherry McElhatton

Karla Spaits

Elsa Kirkegaard

Reception

Clare, David, Jerry, Joshua, Karl and their families express their gratitude for your presence here today and for the support you've offered during Kathryn's illness and following her death. Please join us after this service of worship for a reception at River Hill Park, just down the road at 1149 Riverview Dr, Kewaskum. Directions: Exit the church parking lot and turn left (east) on Main Street. After the bridge turn right on Riverview Drive. The park is on the right, approximately 2 blocks south.

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts received today will support two funds. One will assist Drake University students from low-income families that will be managed by Clare Kuhn. Checks for this fund should be made to Karl Kuhn, and any cash gifts will be designated for this fund. The other is the Kathryn Kuhn Memorial Fund, which will generate theology and faith formation scholarships for women at Kapsowar School of Theology in Kenya. Checks for this fund should be made out to First Congregational United Church of Christ Appleton with "Kathryn Kuhn Memorial Fund" in the memo line.

I can almost remember the potent smell
of patchouli when the ash-haired
woman entered the room. Or, how in the morning
how that scent mixed with the delectable aroma
of the freshly made cranberry-chocolate chip scones
that she laid down on our kitchen table.
Her way of wishing us good morning and opening our tired eyes.
I lift up the gray Foo Fighters shirt she used to wear
so I can hear those concerts in the car, the way we sang
til our voices were no more. *Just one last time.*
These songs, her favorite to listen to while the radiation
attempted to rid her body of the sickness she had within.
That sickness that now rewrites what patchouli symbolizes so rawly.
It now reeks of failed prayers and a misery so heavy
it resembles a boulder placed atop my shoulders.
Tell me. I plead. *How am I supposed to carry*

this? This woman was a lover of milestones.
Sickness—a thief—these are future memories
Robbed from her reach: She views me
holding my Drake University diploma. She
eagerly waits at the end of the stage beckoning
me with outstretched arms. She meets the man
I'll marry and proclaims him "tall enough."
She helps me pick out the most flowing, ivory gown.
She assures me I look as if I outweigh the beauty
Of Aphrodite. She sees me dance, freely,
and revels in the sight of my raw joy. She sees in
my children echoes of her green eyes and vivacious laugh.
She loves being a grandmother most, sitting on the back
patio, a child bounding on her knee, explaining which birds
ornamented the oak and ash trees ahead of them.

But no. I sit here with the final scent of
Patchouli. Just as resilient as my mother's sickness,
it weaves itself into my surroundings.
Its presence lingers in reminder that nobody is ever
completely lost. Nor does anybody deserve to be. My mother
will never cease to exist in my interior: In my searching
soul, my overflowing heart, the fleeting hum of my mind.
Her presence I see now, only a thought, I wear too.
My mother exists in the sparse mapping of freckles
across my skin. There too in the black ink
I had imprinted onto it in the image of a lilac bloom;
the way that skin defines the slope of my nose;
the curl of my smile, and the nape of my neck
where I now apply a scent so simple, yet so complex. A scent
with a distinct character and heft. My mother,
Kathryn.

Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn



Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn, age 50, of Kiel, Wisconsin, died on November 2, 2020 at home, surrounded in love by her immediately family.

Kathryn was born in Grand Rapids, MI on November 8, 1969 to Rev. Gerald and Barbara (Hofmeister) O'Connor. She received her bachelor's degree from Miami University, Oxford, OH in 1991, and a Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO in 1995. Kathryn was ordained as a pastor in the United Church of Christ in 1997.

Kathryn and the Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn were married on May 28, 1994 in the Eden Seminary Chapel in St. Louis, MO. They moved to Karl's home state of Wisconsin in 1995. Their children, Joshua (Gianna Pornasoro) Kuhn and Clare Kuhn, were the joy of Kathryn's heart. Their happiness was her happiness.

Kathryn's years of service to the United Church of Christ included pastoring local Wisconsin churches such as Our Saviour's UCC (Germantown), Bethlehem UCC (Kiel), Saron UCC (Sheboygan Falls), and most recently First Congregational UCC (Appleton), where she was Pastor for Congregational Care and Mission. Kathryn also served as a short-term interim pastor for First Congregational UCC (Sheboygan) and Grace Congregational UCC (Two Rivers).

Her ministry began by supporting men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS through the St. Camillus AIDS Ministry (Wauwatosa) in the mid-1990's. In between parish placements, Kathryn's ministry reflected a close connection to the health and human service ministries of the church and community, including Cedar Community (West Bend), where she served first as a hospice chaplain and later as Director of Ministries. Kathryn's best days were spent with family and friends, appreciating good food, red wine, laughter and much gratitude for the simpler things in life.

In addition to her husband, her children, and her father, those who grieve include her brother, David (Lisa) O'Connor, father-in-law, Allen Kuhn, sisters-in-law Liz (Tom) Wank and Louise (Dan) Hubert, three nieces and six nephews, and many friends. She was preceded in death by her mother and mother-in-law.