# A Celebration of Life and Witness to the Resurrection

# Valden F. Farnham



June 16, 1923 - January 17, 2021

June 12, 2021 - 11:00 am



#### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

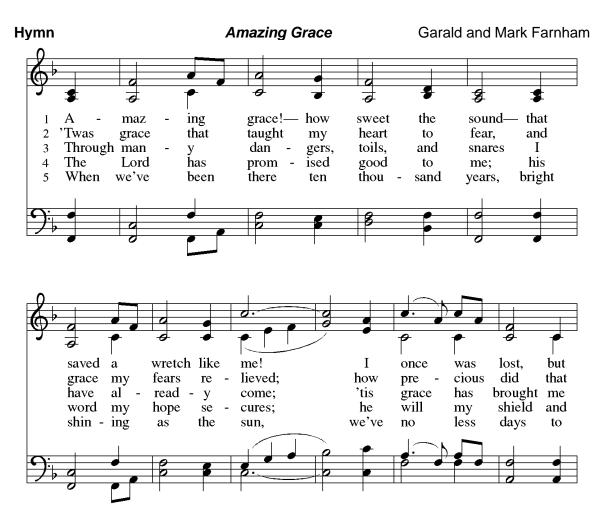
- The music of the prelude is a gift to us as we gather.
- If you speak, please do so softly so all can listen and prepare for worship.

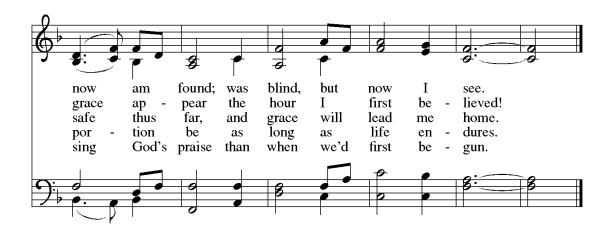
#### Prelude

#### Silver Threads Among the Gold Because How Great Thou Art

# Welcome and Opening Prayer

Pastor Dave





Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

#### Reading

#### *En Voyage* By Carlyle Emery

Garald Farnham

There's a ship sailing on to the harbor, To a haven of comfort and rest; It's a ship of God's fashion and making, And its voyage by God will be blest. It departed with silence and beauty, With the Captain, God, in command; As with dignity truly majestic It sailed out of sight of all land.

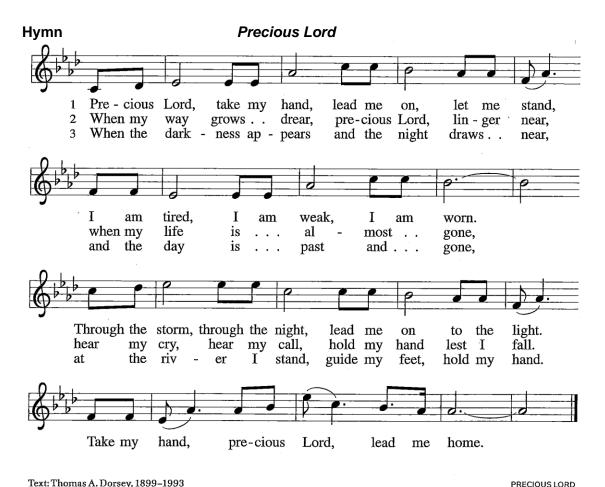
There will always be clear skies above it; There will always be calmness below; There will never be storms to harass it, For our God is on it, you know, And God's wisdom will carry it safely To the port of God's infinite peace, Where the light of God's love will protect it With a blessing that never will cease. You have watched it sail onward and outward, With a tear of regret in your eye, For a loved one was sailing upon it, And there's grief when you're saying goodbye. But your tears would be tears of rejoicing, And your heart would be happy and free, If you could look for only a moment On that ship that is sailing the sea.

For the one you have loved is at leisure, With no worry or trouble or care; There's contentment beyond understanding, In the way God's passengers fare. And you'd know from your own observation That the sailing was joyful—not grim, For it means a new life and new living, And a sweet, closer contact with Him.

Oh, the solace there is in the knowledge, Life is life and it always will be, And it's simply a change of direction When we sail on God's ship out to sea. And the tears that we shed for our loved one Are in truth shed for us left behind, For it hurts to give up to God, Though we know God is gentle and kind.

So believe in God's great and good wisdom, Trust in God, as you patiently wait: On this ship God is ever the pilot, And the one you have loved is the mate.

Special Music	Genealogy Song	Mark, Travis, and Jenna Farnham
Spoken Reflections		Nathan Wilkinson



Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993 Music: George N. Allen, 1812–1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp.

#### Lord's Prayer

#### Pastor Dave

Irregular

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.





Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904 Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

# **Committal and Blessing**

#### Postlude

### Service at Forest Lawn Cemetery immediately following

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**Valden F. Farnham** will be remembered as a caring father, grandfather, great grandfather, and devoted husband for 71 years to his wife Marge. A retired civil engineer and surveyor, he had major roles in the design and construction of the Toledo Airport, the Ohio Turnpike, interstate highways, and numerous other land development projects throughout his career. Many will also remember him as a prolific storyteller who had a keen memory for dates and names.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and was deployed with the 258<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion to Central Europe, participating in the Battle of the Bulge and the crossing of the Rhine River south of Wesel, Germany, and ultimately earning two bronze stars. He married Margaret (Marge) Oram on June 28, 1947, and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo in 1948.

Val worked as a surveyor and design engineer on the Ohio Turnpike, before joining the engineering firm responsible for the design of the Toledo Express Airport. In 1958, he and colleague John Wirries established Farnham, Wirries, and Berning Civil Engineers and Surveyors, specializing in all fields of surveying and land development. They designed many subdivisions in the Toledo area and Southeast Michigan, and in the 1960s his firm became involved in the development of man-made lakes, including Apple Valley in Central Ohio.

In retirement, Val became interested in genealogy and spent three years researching his family history. An exhaustive search with his son, Gary, culminated in a 400-page Farnham history dating to pre-1600. In 2009, he completed and published his memoir *Just a While Ago*. He was a life-long Detroit Tigers fan and remembered listening to their games on his family's Atwater Kent radio. He also cheered for the Michigan Wolverines. A long-time member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Toledo, he spent a number of years as head chef of the monthly meals prepared for the St. Paul's men's group.

He was a skillful bowler and once bowled a 300-game as part of a Toledo men's league. Val and Marge were avid bridge players and played in numerous bridge groups over the years, including Redeemer's bridge group. He also enjoyed their twice-weekly games at the Gahanna Senior Center. He was an active member of Redeemer, attending the weekly Bible study whenever he could. His wife preceded him in death in 2018. He is survived by his children, Garald (Nancy) of New York City; Valerie (Tom) Wilkinson of Westerville; Bruce (Dianna) of Weld, Maine; Mark (Lisa) of Charleston, South Carolina; and Margaret (Maureen Callahan) of Columbus; nine grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to Redeemer Lutheran Church.