

## ***The Mother Tree and Her Daughters***

*author unknown*

*Nature often offers metaphors more elegant than any we can manufacture, and Muir Woods is no exception. Redwoods have evolved to turn disaster into opportunity. In these coastal forests, death produces life.*

*This is what I mean: In the redwood ecosystem, buds for future trees are contained in pods called burls, tough brown knobs that cling to the bark of the mother tree. When the mother tree is logged, blown over, or destroyed by fire - when, in other words, she dies - trauma stimulates the burls' growth hormones. The seeds released, and trees sprout around her, creating the circle of daughters. The daughter trees grow by absorbing the sunlight their mother cedes to them when she dies. And they get the moisture and nutrients they need from their mother's root system, which remains intact underground even after her leaves die. Although the daughters exist independently of their mother above ground, they continue to draw sustenance from her underneath.*

*I am fooling myself when I say my mother exists only in the photograph on my bulletin board or in the outline of my hand or in the armful of memories I still hold tight. She lives on beneath everything I do. Her presence influenced who I was, and her absence influences who I am. Our lives are shaped as much by those who leave us as they are by those who stay. Loss is our legacy. Insight is our gift. Memory is our guide.*

### **Memorials**

Memorials preferred to:  
The American Cancer Society  
PRISM



Valley Community Presbyterian Church  
3100 Lilac Drive N • Golden Valley, MN 55422  
Phone: 763-588-0831 • [office@valleychurch.net](mailto:office@valleychurch.net)  
[www.valleychurch.net](http://www.valleychurch.net)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**JANET  
BIGGS**



**DECEMBER 12, 1940 - JULY 8, 2025**

A SERVICE OF WITNESS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

## Janet Elizabeth Biggs

December 12, 1940 - July 8, 2025



August 18th, 2025 | 1:00 PM

### PRELUDE

*It is Well With My Soul*

by Wilbur Held

Jane Nienaber, organ

*Méditation from Thais*

by Jules Massenet

Taichi & Robin Chen,  
Richard & Melinda Marshall  
violin and viola

### WORDS OF GREETING

Rev. Jim Cochrane

### HYMN #836

*Abide with Me*

### PRAYER (unison)

God of steadfast love and care, we come to you with grieving hearts and searching minds as we listen for your word to us. When death and loss come to our lives, we seek the companionship of your people as we lean upon your everlasting arms. Show us your grace in this hour, that as we face the mystery of death we may see the light of eternity.

Especially we thank you for Janet, who is now with you in your presence. Help us believe where we have not seen, trusting you to lead us through our years. Empower us to remember the love she shared with so many even now as she has moved into your promise of eternal life with you. We pray this as your people. Amen.

### OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Psalms 23

Ty Miller

Psalms 34: 1-7

Evan Miller

### MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Ashokan Farewell*

by Jay Ungar

arranged by Matt Naughtin

Taichi & Robin Chen,  
Richard & Melinda Marshall  
violin and viola

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8:14-23, 31-39

Matthew 5:1-12a

Gabriel Biggs

Sebastian Biggs

### MEDITATION

Rev. Jim Cochrane

### HYMN #366

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

### TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Jen Biggs

### PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND COMFORT & THE 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

### HYMN #65

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Recessional on Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*  
arranged by Paul Manz



Following the postlude, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for refreshments. The family invites you to join for this time to celebrate Janet's life together as family and friends.