

Memorial Service-Transcript

Barbara Lawrence

1930-2024

[0:12] My name is Dan Lloyd. I grew up here in Auburn. I'm the pastor of Cascadia Church, which is a couple miles down the road that way. I'm also a Nationally Certified Life Celebrant.

So, our purpose here today, of course, is to be gathered, all family members. Is that correct? Everybody here is family, okay. And then just to acknowledge this location where Barbara's ashes will be placed in just a few moments. We'll do that at the very end of our time together. And just to gather and be together for a few moments today. So, I would like to begin by reading, or continue, by reading Psalm 23. That's a passage of scripture that has brought comfort to I suppose billions of people over thousands of years around the world. And I trust that they'll help us with that today as well. Psalm 23, written by King David of Israel, reads this way:

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You have anointed my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord, forever.

[2:08] Barbara Louise Lawrence was born December 22, 1930, in Omaha, Nebraska, to Lawrence Chevoit, did I get that pronounced correctly Chevoit, Fenton, and Dorothy Louise Reed. She passed peacefully from this life on March 6, 2024, at the Brookdale Senior Living facility in Federal Way, Washington, at the age of 93.

I had a chance to get to know Barbara a little bit when we met together and you know, I'm not going to tell you anything that, but I think it's important for you to hear some things that I now know about Barbara and things that made her the special individual that not only that she was but she'll continue to be for all of you. For her family was super important. And she would travel, to go visit with family members.

[3:06] She had a strong will to live, everybody knew that, in fact one of her Hospice care workers, described her as a determined woman. So, you can add the dimensions to 'determined' in any way that you would like. It's probably multiple facets to that word there.

Barbara eked out as many life experiences as she could in her 93 years, that she was with us, before she had to leave us, and she had a lot of life experiences. She wanted the most out of life and she was able to accomplish what most people have not accomplished. She was able to do more than most people actually do.

[3:48] Talk a little bit about her marriage to Dean and the extensive travel that they enjoyed when he was serving our nation in the Air Force, when he was stationed in England. She and they had the opportunity to travel throughout Europe and see many historical places, a lot of beautiful locations and as she looked back over her nine plus decades, it's amazing. Here on Earth her happiest season was when she was living there in England, and then later on in her life, she's able to go back, and see some of the places that she enjoyed so much when she was [t]here.

[4:25] A poem was given to me that I'm going to read, you might have heard it before. I asked the family when we were gathered to prepare for today. You know, if your mother could say one more thing to us, final words, final statement, final comment. What do you think she might say? And then you said, oh there's a poem right here, it's a perfect poem. So she handed it to me. Let me read it. It's called "I'm Free". And don't hear my voice hear Barbara's:

*Don't grieve for me now, for I am free.
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call.
I turned my back, and I left it all.
I could not stay another day; to laugh, to love, to work, or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, yes, these things too, I will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish for you, the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I've savored much.
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch.
If my time seemed all too brief, don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me.
God wanted me now, and He set me free.
[written by Anne Lindgren Davison, 1974]*

So thank you for that choice. I think that's a good poem.

[6:30] I want to finish our brief time here today by reading one verse of scripture, just one more. Because I think it accurately reflects what Jesus would say to us, if He were gathered here with us. What I want to read for you is a statement that He made standing at the graveside of one of His best friends. And I wanted to define a word before I read the verse. It's a word we've used about Barbara. I mean, it's a word sometimes, even though it's common, it's not a pleasant word. Sometimes we don't have the full understanding of what that word means, and the word is death. Death means separation and there's two kinds of death. There's physical death which is separation from the body. It's why we're here today. And then there's spiritual death which is the separation from God. That's why Jesus came here to Earth. He said:

I've come that you might have life.

He's talking to people who are physically alive, so He didn't come to give us physical life. He came to give us spiritual life. Two kinds of life, two kinds of death. Everybody lives forever. And those who know Christ get to spend eternity with him. So I want you to think about this. We say that Barbara died. Technically speaking, that's not true. It's just not true. She's more alive now than she ever has been before. And that gives us hope. And so when Jesus got word that His friend died, these two sisters said, come spend some time with us, and they lived in a little village just outside of Jerusalem. Whenever Jesus would go to the big city of Jerusalem, He never spent the night in Jerusalem. He always went over the Mount of Olives to a little village, called Bethany. And He would stay with Mary and Martha and Lazarus. And Jesus got word that Lazarus died, in the scripture says it took Him four days to walk from where He was to where the sisters were. And all along the way I can imagine Jesus, reflecting on memories, thinking about time spent together, and praying and saying, asking God: what can I say to My friends? To bring them encouragement and hope. And of all the things that He said, I want to read you the one statement that really stands out. Before I read it, let me tell you what it means. And then when I read it, I think it'll settle in quite well. Jesus said, in this life, when you're here living on Earth, if you will accept this truth, that I came from Heaven to be with you, to live with you, to lay down My life for you, to rise from the dead for you, to ascend into heaven for you, if you will accept this is true, then when it's your time to leave this life and go into eternity, you will be with Me.

Here's how we said it. It's in John chapter 11, verse 25. He said

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even if he dies. And everyone who lives and believes In Me, will never die.

Of course, He's talking about spiritual death. Then He followed up with a simple question, four words. Do you believe this?

[10:09] And I'm always fascinated that Jesus didn't ask the question, to you understand this. He didn't ask, do you have any more questions? He could have answered them. He said, do you believe this? Why did He ask that question? Because belief means, even if I don't fully understand what's going on, even if I still have more questions, if Jesus said this is true, I will accept it as true. It's belief. That's just as complicated as Christianity is supposed to be. It's people like me that make it more complicated than its supposed to be. That's my job. That's what I do. I keep people coming back, you know, so that's the way I do it.

[10:50] So, I want this place to be a place of hope. I want you to know that this isn't the end. You'll be gathered together again. They'll be a family reunion, and Christ wants to be the host. Then you are all the guests, guests plural of Honor. That's the hope that we have. That there's more to life than this life and Jesus came and He made it possible and He made it very simple. All we have to do is say yes to what He did, and we're good. And we have that all, that we can cling to that.

[11:26] So we are going to take a moment now, we're going to have the urn placed and the cover put on. And then I'm going to give a final prayer. We'll have the staff come, place the urn for us, is that correct? Or, is there a family member that would like to do that? Okay, okay. You'll just go ahead and place the urn in there. Okay.

[12:15] Let's take a moment, and pray together. Father in Heaven, thank you for Barbara Lawrence. Thank you God for making her. And giving her to us. She was your idea. And You gave her to us, You gave her life. And You gave her 93 years. It's amazing. She's seen so much history. She's done so many things. And now she's in eternity where there is no time. Your presence, whether it's peace and joy, and comfort and rest. And we take comfort in knowing that. And it's hard to be here on Earth. It's hard to make these adjustments to life without her, because, we just don't know what it's like to not have her here all the time. So, my prayer for her family God, is that You would, give them a sense of Your presence and Your assurance. That You would give them comfort and hope, and courage. I pray that You would strengthen each one spiritually, relationally and emotionally. This is an emotional journey as well. So many memories that were made and are cherished. So many things that can and will be done to honor her memory. And so, Father this is an important part of it, these names that we see and we've talked about. It's not only for us, but it's for even generations yet to be born. They will stand at this place, and they'll read these names. And they'll remember the stories because the legacy will continue. And that's a good thing.

[13:56] So God, I pray that You would help us to learn how to live in wisdom. That we would get the most out of life that was demonstrated through us, to us to Barbara, the way that she lived. And that most importantly God, that You would help us to be prepared for eternity where life really begins. No more pain, no more sorrow, no more struggles, or suffering. The scriptures say that in heaven, You dry every tear. And You comfort us and You give us tremendous joy in Your presence. And we're grateful for the hope that we have. And it's only possible because of Your son Jesus and I ask and I pray these things in His name. Amen

[14:37] And so this, welcome, this concludes our official time here together. I want to thank you for letting me be a part of this. Trusting us, me, and the staff here.

Location: Mountain View Cemetery
2020 Mountain View Dr
Auburn, WA 98001

Service Date: April 30, 2024
Service Time: 2:30 PM

Niche Location: Forest Walk
Eagle Columbarium
Column 9, Row 1

Officiant: Dr. Dan Lloyd
Website: <https://funeralleadership.com/>

