

Reverend Melany Dawn
(Stephenson) Hamilton



October 17, 2025
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Bridgeville, PA

***A Service of Witness to the Resurrection of
Rev. Melany Hamilton
August 31,1953 – October 10,2025***

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: Who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."

People: We come to worship God, who gives life and conquers death.

Pastor: Let us worship God with thanksgiving and trust.

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"In Christ Alone"

1 In Christ alone, my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings
cease. My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2 In Christ alone, who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live, I live.

3 There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, Up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine, Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand.
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

CALL TO CONFESSION

In life and in death we belong to God, yet we confess that we have not always lived as those who trust in the power of Christ's resurrection. Let us come before God in humility and hope, confessing our sin and opening ourselves to God's mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we confess that we have sinned against you, in thought, word, and deed. We have doubted your promises, feared death more than trusted your grace, and failed to love one another as you have loved us. Forgive us, O Lord. Lift the weight of guilt and grief from our hearts, and renew in us the hope of the gospel, that we might live as people of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Brian Janssen

Hear the good news: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ— and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; the old life is gone, a new life has begun. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

“I Love To Tell The Story”

No. 560

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

Psalm 103

Psalm 130

John 14:1-7,19,27

2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

1 Corinthians 13

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Donald Dawson

REMEMBRANCES

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

No. 500

PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Donald Dawson

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 forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

COMMENDATION

Lord, You only are immortal, the Creator and Maker of all. We are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. This you ordained when you created us, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Melany with all your saints, where there is neither pain nor sorrow nor sighing, but life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

No. 72

BLESSING (*Please Stand*)

PRAYER

"Lord, Make Us Rich"

Rev. Dr. John G. Hamilton

Lord, make us rich, very rich...

in mercy for those who have hurt us,
in time for those who need us,
in attention for those who need to be heard,
in laughter and delight for all around us.

Lord, make us rich, very rich...

in the beauty that our senses take in,
and the beauty we give out;
in the signs of heaven we see on earth,
and the signs of heaven we leave on earth.

Lord, make us rich, very rich...

in the things that count most,
that is, the things that cannot be counted:
faith, hope, and love.

For that richness we would become poor...

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Participants in the Service

Rev. Dr. Brian Janssen

Rev. Dr. Donald Dawson

Rev. Dr. John Hamilton

Robert Clearfield, Musician

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to all who are in attendance today. Please join us for a luncheon in the Great Room immediately following the service.