



**Giving Thanks for the Life and Faith of
Rev. Esther Louise Dant
May 23rd, 1940 - January 4th, 2025**

Giving Thanks for the Life and Faith of Rev. Esther Louise Dant

University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis + January 17, 2024, 11am

+Indicates the Assembly should stand as able

Spoken assembly words are marked in **boldface**.

ELW refers to the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

PRELUDE

We Gather Together
Mark Gitch, Violin; Terra Widdifield, Piano

+GATHERING WORDS

+HYMN Don't Be Afraid (see page 7)

+GREETING AND PRAYER

REMEMBRANCES

Michael Dant
Janet Graham
Jack Dant

SPECIAL MUSIC

Meditation from the Opera *Thais* by Jules Massenet
Mark Gitch, Violin; Terra Widdifield, Piano

READINGS

Ithaca by Constantine P. Cavafy, *David Thomas*
Go to the Limits of Your Longing by Rainer Maria Rilke, *Joe Paquet*
Psalm 100, *Chris Graham*
Ephesians 2:8-10, *Tim Faas*
John 14:26-27, *Bishop Jen Nagel*

HOMILY

Bishop Jen Nagel

HYMN

Borning Cry ELW 732

+PRAYERS

Following each petition:

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

+THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;

and 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.

+COMMENDATION

+SENDING WORDS

+RECESSIONAL HYMN

In The Garden

(see back page)

POSTLUDE

Following the service, please join the family in the fellowship hall for a light reception

Ministers Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert

Bishop Jen Nagel

Urn Bearers Monica and Paulina Graham

Ushers Brent & Kristine Sherman

Hospitality Members of Hope



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Esther Louise Dant (née Faas), age 84, of Arden Hills, MN, passed away January 4, 2025 from leukemia-related heart failure. Preceded in death by parents Floyd and Irene, and six siblings: Phyllis, Robert, Marilyn, Dick, Donald, and Ruth Ann. Also preceded in death by former husband, Roland Dant. She is survived by three children, Michael Dant (David Thomas), Janet Graham (Christopher Graham), and Jack Dant, as well as two grandchildren, Monica Graham and Paulina Graham.

Esther was a lifelong member of the Lutheran church, and passionate about encouraging faith development in people of all ages. She served as Directors of Youth Ministry, Stephen Ministry, and Pastoral Care at Messiah Lutheran Church in Mounds View, MN. Responding to a call toward deeper ministry, she obtained her Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary and served as Pastor of Congregational Care at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Maplewood, MN. Following retirement, she joined her son Jack in membership at University Lutheran Church of Hope where she also served as Visitation Pastor for five years.

As Executive Consultant to Stephen Ministries, she traveled to many locations across the US to train congregations. Additionally, she developed and traveled nationwide to train on a new Stephen Ministry program designed specifically for youth. Esther was an Adjunct Instructor at Luther Seminary, teaching courses in Stephen Ministry and Pastoral Care.

Esther enjoyed growing up in the rolling hills of southeastern Iowa on the family farm near Millersburg. She shared many happy memories of bike riding, playing at the river, and the many adventures with her six older siblings. Her record of most points scored in a high school basketball game held for many years, only to be topped by her niece! She continued to enjoy shooting hoops throughout her entire, active life.

A lifelong artist, Esther was an art major at ISU, had two solo painting shows, and taught oil painting classes in her basement in the 1970s and '80s. She later re-engaged with painting through classes with Joe Paquet. Esther and her children loved sharing their art together in a yearly show, Dant Werks, at Boréal in St. Paul, MN.

She found great joy in rich, life-long friendships, gardening, travel (especially Paris), time with family, reading, and spending time with her close knit neighborhood. A loving mother, friend, and pastor, she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Ithaca

Constantine P. Cavafy

When you set out on your journey to Ithaca,
pray that the road is long,
full of adventure, full of knowledge.
The Lestrygonians and the Cyclops,
the angry Poseidon – do not fear them:
You will never find such as these on your
path,
if your thoughts remain lofty, if a fine
emotion touches your spirit and your body.
The Lestrygonians and the Cyclops,
the fierce Poseidon you will never
encounter,
if you do not carry them within your soul,
if your soul does not set them up before you.

Pray that the road is long.
That the summer mornings are many, when,
with such pleasure, with such joy
you will enter ports seen for the first time;
stop at Phoenician markets,
and purchase fine merchandise,
mother-of-pearl and coral, amber, and
ebony,
and sensual perfumes of all kinds,
as many sensual perfumes as you can;
visit many Egyptian cities,
to learn and learn from scholars.

Always keep Ithaca in your mind.
To arrive there is your ultimate goal.
But do not hurry the voyage at all.
It is better to let it last for many years;
and to anchor at the island when you are old,
rich with all you have gained on the way,
not expecting that Ithaca will offer you
riches.

Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage.
Without her you would have never set out
on the road.
She has nothing more to give you.

And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not
deceived you.
Wise as you have become, with so much
experience,
you must already have understood what
these Ithacas mean.

Go to the Limits of Your Longing

Rainer Maria Rilke

Translated by Joanna Macy

God speaks to each of us as he makes us,
then walks with us silently out of the night.

These are the words we dimly hear:

You, sent out beyond your recall,
go to the limits of your longing.
Embody me.

Flare up like a flame
and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.
You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand.

Book of Hours, I 59

Don't Be Afraid

Don't be a - afraid. My love is stron-ger, my love is stron-ger than your

The first system of music features a treble clef staff with a 7/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef staff provides a simple accompaniment of eighth notes.

fear. Don't be a-fraid. My love is stron-ger and

The second system continues the melody from the first system. It includes a fermata over the word 'fear' in the treble staff. The bass staff continues with eighth notes.

I have prom - ised, prom-ised to be al - ways near.

The third system concludes the piece with a double bar line. The treble staff ends with a half note, and the bass staff continues with eighth notes.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, and Graham Maule, 1958–2019

Music: DON'T BE AFRAID, John L. Bell

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In the Garden

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1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, while the
 2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice is so
 3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him, though the

dew is still on the ros - es; and the voice I hear fall - ing
 sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; and the mel - o - dy that He
 night a - round me be fall - ing; but He bids me go; through the

on my ear, the Son of God dis - clos - es.
 gave to me with - in my heart is ring - ing. And He walks with me, and He
 voice of woe, His voice to me is call - ing.

talks with me, and He tells me I am His own, and the

joy we share as we tar - ry there, none oth - er has ev - er known.

WORDS: C. Austin Miles, 1912 (John 20:11-18)

MUSIC: C. Austin Miles, 1912

GARDEN

8.9.5.5.7 with refrain