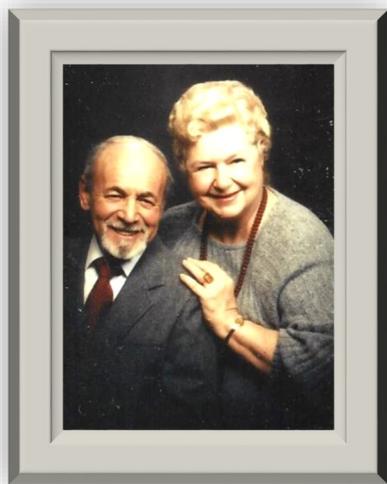


The Service of the Resurrection and
Celebration of the Life of
Charlotte J. Allen

(May 28, 1925 to December 23, 2019)



Friday December 27, 2019

7:15 p.m.

Caywood's Funeral Home & Gardens

1126 Broadway

Southport/Elmira, NY

Rev. Br. Shawn Francis. Benedict, O.S.B. officiating.



The Lamb of God

<https://www.nathangreene.com>

The Faithful Friend

- ¹⁴A faithful friend is a sure shelter,
 whoever finds one has found a rare treasure.
- ¹⁵A faithful friend is beyond price,
 there is no measuring their worth.
- ¹⁶A faithful friend is a life-saving medicine, the elixir of life,
 and those who respect and love God will find one.
- ¹⁷Those who love and respect God make true friends,
 and true friends create true friendships.

(From the Bible, the book of Sirach or Ecclesiasticus Chapter 6,
verses 5 – 17 written between 200 and 175 B. C. E.)

** Charlotte gave framed prints of this picture to everyone
who attended Ray Of Hope Church during Christmas, 2018.



CALL TO WORSHIP

Bells 1st ring. Please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

Bells 2nd ring.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND TO GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Lisa Frost: We welcome you to this celebration of Charlotte J. Allen's life and salvation, which is presented by her faith community of the last five years: Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are the faith community in Central New York and live on the Internet where everyone is welcome. Tonight we are gathered to give God thanks and praise for our sister in Christ, Charlotte. Charlotte would certainly want everyone to know that you are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7 the church is commanded:

ALL: **"Welcome one another, then, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."** (NABRE)

Pastor: We begin in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Pastor: The Lord's Holy Presence and the Lord's peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: Please join me silently as I offer this prayer. Almighty God we are here tonight to give you thanks and praise for the life of Charlotte. Charlotte was faithful to you and believed in and dedicated herself to your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. She placed a very high priority on being present at worship and receiving the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Communion, every time she was in church and at home when she was too sick to attend worship. Oh God, see the family gathered here that she mothered into this world and supported

with her love to her last breath. We ask you to give a special blessing of grace to those here who are especially grieving tonight. Let each person here feel your presence and confidence. We pray this through Christ, Our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: It is holy and good to grieve. Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus and the people said “see how much He loved him.” (John 11:35,36). We all extend our support to those who are hurting at this time. We are also here to celebrate with thanksgiving in our hearts. Romans 14:9 declares “Jesus Christ is Lord of the living and the dead.” Jesus Himself declared that “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” in Matthew 28:18. So, yes we grieve but we also rejoice in Christ Our Lord who has protected Charlotte and brought her into Paradise with Him. Offering all of our emotions in prayer, we begin now to worship God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23, 24)

ALL: Together we give God thanks and praise.

+ Baptismal Promises Recalled

Pastor: We begin by remembering Charlotte died in the protection of baptism. In the waters of baptism Charlotte died with Christ and rose with Him to new life. In Romans 6:3-5 we read “For if we are united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be united together in the likeness of His resurrection.” Charlotte is a baptized Christian who boldly professed her faith in the Christian community. Therefore, we know she shares with Christ eternal glory.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Therefore, we now bless the body of Charlotte with holy water that recalls her baptism. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: On the day of her baptism, Charlotte was clothed in Christ. In the day of Christ’s coming, she will receive her resurrection body and be clothed with Christ’s glory. We make this proclamation in the Name of Jesus.

ALL: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. Alleluia. (Psalm 23:4)

Ken Ryan: Please rise as you are able as we sing Holy, Holy, Holy.

First Song - Holy, Holy, Holy

1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.
2. Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore thee, Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.
3. Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide thee, Though the eyes of sinners thy Glory may not see, Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.
4. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea; Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Text: Reginald Herber, 1783-1826 Music: NICAEA; John B. Dykes, 1923 - 1876.

+ The Candle Of Hope

Ken Ryan: Please be seated. At this time, we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope as a witness to our looking forward to the return of Christ when He will raise the dead and instantly transform those who are waiting for Him and living at the time, giving to each one a new resurrection body for everlasting life. (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; etc.)

ALL: Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25,26)

Ken Ryan: We remember in our hearts the names of our friends and family members who have passed; especially Charlotte J. Allen. May the candle's flame remind us of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered us by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:13)

ALL: Amen

Pastor: On Wednesday evening we were visiting with Cheryl at her home and she reminded me of how much Charlotte loves Mary the Mother of Jesus and how like Mary Charlotte is a very gentle woman who has loved so many people and shown unconditional love to all who knew her. Cheryl asked if we could sing the song Gentle Woman in honor of Mary and Charlotte. You may remain seated for this song but please do sing along.

SONG: Hail Mary: Gentle Woman Text and Music by Carey Landry

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of death. Amen

REFRAIN: Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom: teach us love.

1) You were chosen by the Father; you were chosen for the Son. You were chosen from all women and for woman, shining one.

REFRAIN: Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom: teach us love.

2) Blessed are you among women, blest in turn all women, too. Blessed they with peaceful spirits. Blessed they with gentle hearts.

REFRAIN: Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom: teach us love. Teach us wisdom: teach us love.

Text: Hail Mary based on Luke 1:28; Carey Landry. b. 1944.
Music: Carey Landry. Text and music © 1975, 1978, Carey Landry and NALR Reprinted here under CCLI #706121

+ Opening Prayer



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

Lisa Frost: Our first reading is the Book of Wisdom Chapter

3, verses 1-9.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

² In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,

³ and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

⁴ For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

⁵ Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of God's self;

⁶ like gold in the furnace God tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering God accepted them.

⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

⁸ They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them forever. (This is the
Millennial Kingdom in the future yet to be fulfilled. - Br.
Benedict)

⁹ Those who trust in God will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with God in love,
because grace and mercy are upon God's holy ones,
and God personally watches over the saints.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ Responsorial Psalm 23 with Romans 14:9

**ALL: He is Lord of the living and the dead and He will raise
us up to new life.**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

**ALL: He is Lord of the living and the dead and He will raise
us up to new life.**

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness

for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they
comfort me.

ALL: He is Lord of the living and the dead and He will raise us up to new life.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

ALL: He is Lord of the living and the dead and He will raise us up to new life.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

ALL: He is Lord of the living and the dead and He will raise us up to new life.

+ Second Reading

Ken Ryan: Our second reading is in the Book of Romans Chapter 14, verses 7-12

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Pastor: Please rise as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the
truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your
Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our
hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

Pastor: The Risen Lord Jesus is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to the Book of John, Chapter Eleven, verses nine to seventeen.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

ALL: May the Word of God be in our minds (***) that we would understand it, on our lips (***) that we will speak it, and in our hearts (***) that we will love it.

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me

will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

+ Sermon - Wisdom 3:1-9 The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. ****GO BACK****

Wisdom 1:13, 14 ¹³God did not make death, nor does God rejoice in the destruction of the living. ¹⁴For God fashioned all things that they might have being; and the creatures of the world are wholesome,

John 11:35 Jesus wept.

Romans 14:9 declares "Jesus Christ is Lord of the living and the dead."

Matthew 28:18 Jesus Himself declared that "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

John 11:40 b You will see the glory of God! - Resurrection

Psalms 116:14, 15 My vows to the Lord I will fulfill before all the people. O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of God's faithful.

1 John 5:9-13 ⁹this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. (NKJV)

John 5:24 Jesus said: The one who hears my word and believes in God who sent me, has eternal life, will never come under judgment and has passed from death to life already.

John 6:47 The one who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. **6:50** This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. **6:51** I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, they will live forever.. **6:54** Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Psalms 128 celebrates the joy of a man and a woman who come together and gift the world with a large family. Verses two through four read: "by the labor of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper; your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. Indeed this is the family that reverences God. Verse six reads: "May you see your children's children..."

Charlotte loved her family. She was so excited as each grandchild and then great grandchild was born, starting another ring of life on her family tree. I remember reciting this psalm for her during her reception of Holy Communion recently in the last few months. She

listened and slowly shook her head in gratitude, dignity, and motherly love as I recalled the words of this psalm.

Charlotte was a baptized Christian, she lived her vocation in marriage, she regularly worshipped and heard the Word of God, and she regularly received the Blessed Sacrament, the Bread Of Life and the Cup Of Salvation. She lived in Christ and she has died in Christ, and she is living forever in Christ in His Kingdom.

SONG: I Can Only Imagine. Written by Bart Millard. Performed by MercyMe



Eulogy

Family and friends may speak and share memories, stories, dedications and other thoughts.

Open Microphone



Final Commendation

Pastor: Trusting in God, we have prayed together in thanksgiving for the life of Charlotte J. Allen and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the knowledge that one day we shall see Charlotte again and enjoy her friendship in the joy of Paradise and finally in the fullness of the future coming Kingdom of God.

The Saints of God, and the angels came to Charlotte's aid in the hour of her death.

ALL: We ask that her soul be received and she be presented to God the Most High.

Pastor: Give Charlotte eternal rest and security, O Lord.

ALL: And let perpetual light shine on her. Amen

+ The Lord's Prayer

+ Sign Of Peace



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Risen Lord Jesus is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: (a prayer is said) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Pastor: We go forth in peace and in love to serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Be Not Afraid

1. You shall cross the barren desert,
But you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety,
Though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands,
And all will understand,
You shall see the face of God and live.

REFRAIN:

***Be not afraid,
I go before you always,
Come follow Me,
And I will give you rest.***

2. If you pass through raging waters
In the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amidst the burning flames,
You shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the pow'r of hell
And death is at your side,
Know that I am with you, through it all

(Refrain)

3. Blessed are your poor,
For the Kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn,
For one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked ones insult and hate you, all because of Me,
Blessed, blessed are you!

(Refrain)

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Gifts may be made in memory of Charlotte J. Allen to:
Ray Of Hope Church, Inc.
c/o Lisa Frost, Treasurer
380 W. 1st St. Elmira, NY 14901.

**You may also may also make a memorial donation by
using the PayPal link on the church website**

http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/DONATE_RAYOFHOPE.htm

Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose



In the Spirit of God, and in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, we the Faith Community at Ray Of Hope Church commit to:

- **guide** and welcome all people to the Free Gift of Salvation in Christ Jesus, with a God-ordained celebration of all sexual orientations, and gender expressions, with an open ministry to persons affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends,
- **declare** and openly assert the truth that same-sex relationships, founded and fostered in God-centered love, are holy and blessed, and in fact originate by the work of the Holy Spirit; and, that God equally uses blessed same-sex and heterosexual Holy Unions and Marriages to bring God's own love and good news of "Salvation to all who believe" into the world,
- **uphold**, proclaim, and teach the historic Biblical Christian Doctrine, build community through worship and prayer, break the bread, and live the ministry of the Holy Spirit,
- **change** the world around us by living Gospel principles of social justice in everything we do, thereby exposing all forms of prejudice, oppression, racism, homophobia, sexism, and misogyny,
- **proclaim** the ray of hope, which is the soon coming return of Christ Jesus, and the fullness of His Eternal Community where the Will of God will establish liberty, justice, equity, and peace for all God's People and the universe.

Visit us on line:

Our website: www.rayofhopechurch.com

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs

—Scripture verses to share with others:—

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 2:11 The **grace** of God has appeared, bringing salvation to **all**.

John 5:24 Those who hear my word and **believe in God** who sent me, **have** eternal life, will **never** come under judgment and have passed from **death to life** already.

Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."
(repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks.

"Lord" here refers to God principally as in the book of Joel that is being quoted, so all persons who call on God shall be saved.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)