

**Service of Thanksgiving for
the Life of Gordon Henry Roberts**
March 10, 1926 – February 9, 2022

Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener
2 March 2022, at 11:00 a.m.



The Church of St. John the Evangelist
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Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener, parish home for the Roberts family for over 40 years.

We gather today to mourn the death and give thanks for the life of Gordon, also known affectionately as Gordie and GG (Grand Gordie) by his family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

St. John's is still observing several pandemic protocols – among them, wearing protective masks within the church building and remaining at a distance of two metres from people who are not in your household group. Both the Erb & Good staff and our parish greeters will assist you with seating for today's service.

A further precaution is alternating with the choir the singing of hymn verses. The choir-only verses are printed in italics in the order of service.

Because Parkview Cemetery is not opening ground during the present frost conditions, the Committal will take place here at the church immediately following the Commendation. After the service, we are all invited to a reception at the Westmount Golf and Country Club, 50 Inverness Drive, Kitchener, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

For his 90th birthday, Gordon's family paid him tribute with 90 Reasons Why We Love You, GG. The 90 Reasons are reprinted for us today at the back of this booklet. We have also included Gordon and Diane's table grace, prayed whenever their family gathered.

We thank the many people who have contributed to this memorial today. May Gordon's memory be for us a blessing. May we remember him, speak his name, and allow his goodness and his laughter to live on through us.

The Rev. James F. Brown, Presiding Minister
David Harrison, Organist and Director of Music
The Choir of St. John the Evangelist
Jonathan Malton, Livestream Technician
Marianne Mellinger, Warden

The Funeral Liturgy

Book of Alternative Services, Page 576

At this service, the choir will sing the hymn verses in italics; the congregation and choir will sing the other verses.

Prelude

Nimrod from the Enigma Variations
Edward Elgar

Ich ruf zu dir (I call to you)
J. S. Bach

Greeting and Welcome

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
 be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Processional Hymn 352

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found:
was blind, but now I see.

*'Twas grace first taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!*

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

When we've been there ten thousand years
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Collect

Remembering Gordon

Christine & Neil Macdonald

Readings

Isaiah 40:27-31

read by Kaitlin Ladha

The lesson is read.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

read by Andrew Macdonald

The lesson is read.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

The Reverend James Brown

Hymn 531

You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain:

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

*Snares of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings your refuge,
his faithfulness your shield.*

(Refrain)

*You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.*

(Refrain)

For to his angels he's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

(Refrain)

Text and Music: Michael Joncas

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The Apostles' Creed

Page 578, BAS

Presider Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living 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.**

The Prayers of the People

Page 579, BAS

The Intercessor will bid the prayers.

The congregation responds.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

The Lord's Prayer

Page 583, BAS

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray.

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
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 for ever. Amen.**

Anthem

From the Falter of Breath

*From the falter of breath,
through the silence of death.
to the wonder that's breaking beyond,
God has woven a way,
unapparent by day,
for all those of whom heaven is fond.*

*From frustration and pain,
through hope hard to sustain,
to the wholeness here promised, there known,
Christ has gone where we fear
and has vowed to be near
on the journey we make on our own.*

*From the dimming of light,
through the darkness of night,
to the glory of goodness above,
God the Spirit is sent
to ensure heaven's intent
is embraced and completed in love.*

*From today till we die,
through all questioning why,
to the place from which time and tide flow,
angels tread on our dreams,
and magnificent themes
of heaven's promise are echoed below.*

Text: John L. Bell

Music: Melody Scottish trad.; arr. George Black

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**Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

**You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all;
and we are mortal, formed of the earth,
and to earth shall we return.**

**For so did you ordain when you created me, 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 servants with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

The presider prays,

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour,
we commend your servant, Gordon.

Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.

Receive him into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen.

The Committal

*The presider prays the Prayer of Committal and prayers for
those who mourn.*

Presider Rest eternal grant him, O Lord.
People **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

Presider May his soul and the souls of all the departed,
 through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People **Amen.**

The Blessing

The presider blesses the people.

Dismissal

Presider Go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Hymn 506 Lord of All Hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plan and the lathe,
be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*

*Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Postlude

Voluntary in D minor
John Stanley

Everyone is invited to a reception to remember Gordon, and visit with his family and friends.

The reception begins at 1 p.m.,
at the Westmount Golf and Country Club,
50 Inverness Dr., Kitchener.

Gordon and Diane's Table Grace

For food in the world where many walk in hunger,
For faith in the world where many walk in fear,
For friends in the world where many walk alone,
We thank you God for all of the blessings of this life.

90 Reasons Why We Love You, GG

1. You are the best listener in the world. You listen with an open heart and mind.
2. Your smile lights up every room you are in.
3. You always have time for us. You never ask us to hurry up or say that you are late for something – rather you always treat us like we are the most important thing in the world.
4. You have a heart of gold.
5. Your years have made you wise (not old).
6. You let our Dad beat you at golf sometimes so he feels better about himself.
7. You were the most loving and doting father to our mom, Jan.
8. We have the best memories of sleepovers and playing crokinole with you as children.
9. You brought Grandma Di into our lives.
10. GG-achooos (bless you!).
11. You are a Canadian Warren Buffett.
12. Your handwriting is charmingly impossible to read... but you write us so many good letters that we can now successfully read 90% of the words on the page.
13. You have a hearty laugh that makes us smile.
14. You made us wine. We drank it.

15. You are a model husband for men to look up to.
16. You have more corporate swag, even after nearly 30 years of retirement, than someone who works for a company today (or someone who just retired!).
17. You are our rock.
18. You are our moral compass.
19. You guide us without even speaking in that whenever we have a difficult decision to make all we have to do is ask ourselves “what would GG do?” and we will make the right call.
20. Your handshake is firm.
21. You have been so supportive of our pursuits of education.
22. You take the time to learn about our companies, our careers, and our colleagues.
23. You are a welcoming and loving grandfather in-law.
24. You have excellent taste in women (Grandma Di!).
25. You always remind us that you love us (“did I tell you I love you today?”).
26. You are so generous with others yet so thrifty yourself, you even douse hot bbq coals for next time.
27. You give the biggest hugs and the best shoulder rubs.
28. You are the best at picking raspberries for making jam.
29. You are quick-witted.
30. You were our favourite babysitter when Mom and Dad went on vacay.
31. You were always waiting for us after school.
32. No Grandpa has a cooler Cadillac (JR).
33. Nobody reads “The Night Before Christmas” like you do.
34. You are open to trying new things (like a beard!).
35. You do anything for the ones you love (like shaving off your beard!).
36. We have the best memories of you funding and taking us Christmas shopping for Mom and Dad when we were little.

37. You are not a 'product of your generation' but a product of an open mind and a good heart.
38. The grass at your house is greener and more lush than Neil's grass.
39. You have a zest for life that is unmatched.
40. You always see the best in everyone and everything.
41. You are the proudest Canadian.
42. You think "google" is to flirt with someone, "twitter" is to make a bird like noise, and email is done by going to the local store to send an electronic message.
43. You are easily bragged about to others.
44. You set the dance floor on fire at Adil and Katie's wedding.
45. You are full of energy and enthusiasm.
46. You instilled in us a love of travel (and gave us the gift of seeing the world, more than once!).
47. You are humble.
48. Your faith in God and in humanity are exemplary.
49. You lead by example (not by force).
50. You are (almost) the fastest walker on any track.
51. You are a fabulous role model in all that you do.
52. You are the youngest person over the age of 60 I've ever met (you are over 60, right?).
53. You give good scratches (xo Jake).
54. You are honest and straightforward and give thoughtful advice.
55. You have the most beautiful singing voice. Whether it is Christmas carols at Church or a Happy Birthday voicemail, you put your heart into every song you sing.
56. You love us no matter what.
57. You call us "sweetheart" with so much affection.
58. You have a wonderful ability to make friends everywhere you go.
59. You are dedicated to health and wellness - evidenced by being such a superstar at Wellfit!
60. You proudly rock matching tracksuits with Grandma Di.

61. Our Dad was your best man at your wedding.
62. You always have pictures of us around your house.
63. We have great memories of long walks in the ravine and on the beach.
64. You are the best tour guide and company at the Farmer's Market.
65. You were always the loudest cheerer at our sporting events.
66. You have a magnificent hat collection.
67. You treat our friends like they are your own grandchildren. They all love you and consider you their GG too!
68. You are the best backstroker in the pool.
69. You have taught us so much about finance.
70. You know when to draw the line in the sand - thanks for always agreeing to babysit Kelly. We understand why you refuse to babysit Jake.
71. You are the most wonderful house guest - you even bring your own towels!
72. You have taken great care of your share of strong, beautiful women during the tough times in their lives - Norma, Jan (Mom), the Aunties, and Grandma Di.
73. You are adored by all at Westmount and we have so much fun seeing you in your element there.
74. You are the best bartender around.
75. The example you set makes us all want to be better. Everyday.
76. You cherish every accomplishment in people's lives.
77. You live for others - other people's joy is your joy.
78. You say an excellent Grace.
79. You are a great golfing partner! Even when Grandma Di and Mom or Dad tried to cheat just a little.
80. You sing us Happy Birthday every single year.
81. You are principled and firm, uncompromising on your values yet forgiving and understanding.

82. You have fidelity and loyalty to your family, friends, and country as hallmarks of your character.
 83. You do what you say, say what you mean, and walk the talk.
 84. You have an indomitable spirit and joie de vivre.
 85. You make your conversational partner feel they are the only one present in a crowded room.
 86. You drive Oldsmobiles and Buicks and Cadillacs and you give GG-discounts to your family!
 87. You are wise beyond your years (hard to believe!).
 88. You are younger than your years (...by far!!).
 89. You accept new people into the family and into your life and love them with just a blink of an eye.
 90. You are successful in business, love and life; you live, love, and laugh; you are a great son, brother, husband, friend, father, grandfather; you have earned the respect and esteem of everyone who gets to know you and we love you because you are GG!
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