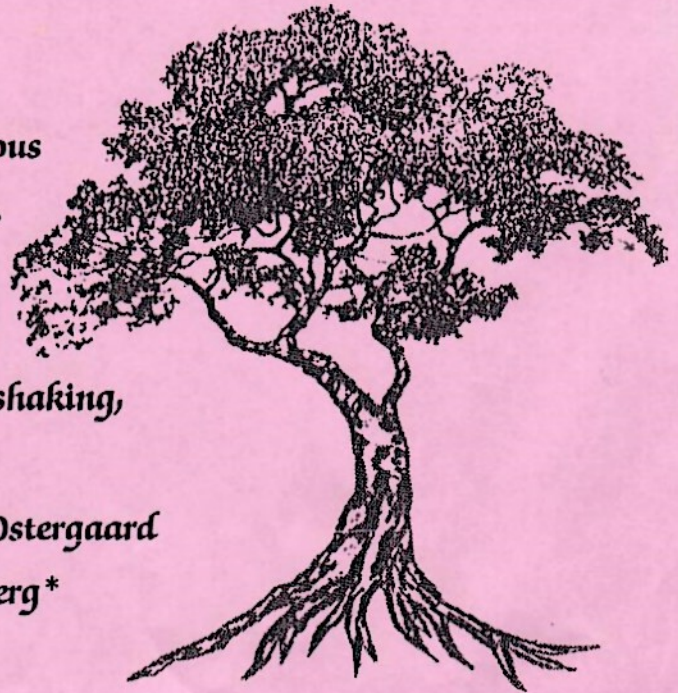


Caroline

Each worthy cause with a future glorious
By quietly growing becomes victorious.
Thereby itself like a tree it shows:
That high it reaches, as deep it grows;
And when the storms are its branches shaking,
It deeper root in the soil is taking!

Danish Folk Tune/C. Ostergaard
Translated by J.A. Aaberg*



Celebration of the life of
Phyllis Jean Kinheart Athey

January 23, 1957 - May 23, 1988

Wheaton United Methodist Church, Evanston, Illinois

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF PHYLLIS JEAN KINHEART ATHEY

January 23, 1957 - May 23, 1988

WE GATHER IN PAIN

WELCOME

Carol

stand THE CALL TO AWARENESS

- L. We are a gathered people. We have come from many places, from many thoughts, from many lives. Why are we here?
- P. THIS DAY WE DECLARE OURSELVES TO BE A COMMUNITY. WE GATHER AROUND THE POWERFUL MOMENTS OF LIFE AND DEATH.
- L. Death has visited us. But we have not come to celebrate death.
- P. WE AFFIRM DEATH - IT IS REAL. BUT WE DO NOT CELEBRATE IT. WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF LIFE IN OUR SISTER, PHYLLIS. THE PRECIOUSNESS AND BEAUTY, THE PASSION AND COURAGE OF HER LIFE IS DECLARED IN THE FACE OF DEATH.

"SOMETIMES I WISH" Carole E. Etzler

OUR LAMENT: PSALM 6 (responsively)

Jan

- L. O God, do not punish me in your rage,
P. OR REPROVE ME IN THE HEAT OF ANGER.
L. Pity me, O God, I have no strength left,
P. HEAL ME, MY BONES ARE IN TORMENT,
L. My soul is in utter torment.
P. O GOD, HOW LONG WILL YOU BE?
L. Come back, O God, rescue my soul,
P. SAVE ME, IF YOU LOVE ME;
L. For in death there is no remembrance of you:
P. WHO CAN SING YOUR PRAISES IN SHEOL?
L. I am worn out with groaning,
P. EVERY NIGHT I DRENCH MY PILLOW AND SOAK MY BED WITH TEARS;
L. My eye is wasted with grief,
P. I HAVE GROWN OLD WITH ENEMIES ALL AROUND ME.
L. Away from me, all you evil ones!
P. FOR GOD HAS HEARD THE SOUND OF MY WEEPING;
L. God has heard my petition,
P. GOD WILL ACCEPT MY PRAYER,
L. Let all my enemies, discredited, in utter torment,
P. FALL BACK IN UTTER CONFUSION.

Sit - Carol will come in for this,
A TIME OF SHARING - FEAR, ANGER AND GRIEF

stand OUR CORPORATE CONFESSION

Donna

- L. The Light comes to the world:
P. OUR EYES, LONG USED TO DARKNESS, FATIGUED FROM LONG SEARCHING,
BLINK AND TWITCH. WE JERK AWAY AND DO NOT ANSWER.
L. The Light comes into our lives:
P. SHUDDERING WITH THE WARMTH, PREFERRING LONELINESS TO THE PAIN OF
ANSWERING, WE JERK AWAY AND DO NOT ANSWER.
L. The Light comes to touch our bodies and our spirit-minds:
P. BUT WE ARE LOST IN LOGIC, LIVING IN OUR HEADS. OUR BODIES GIVE US
AWAY TO THE TRUTH OF ISOLATION.
L. Calling, calling our names, the Light comes:
P. PREFERRING TO HEAR IT AS THE ICE-RATTLING BRANCHES OF WINTER TREES,
WE TURN AWAY, CROUCHED AGAINST THE WIND, AND DO NOT ANSWER.

"BE NOT AFRAID" Bob Dufford, S. J.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE* (unison)

WE HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT. WE HAVE HEARD THE CALL. WE WILL DANCE IN THE
LIGHT WITH OUR GOD.

Sit

POEM from "Rough Edges", Spring 1982, by Phyllis Athey
(Published by G.E.T.S.)

Nancy

ISAIAH 43: 1b-4, ROMANS 8: 31-39

Warren

HOMILY

B. J.

"O HEALING RIVER" Solo (a capella)

Joan F.

WE REMEMBER

BJ will come in

A TIME OF SHARING - MEMORIES, JOYS, POEMS, STATEMENTS

"PHYLLIS' SONG" Dorie Ellzey Blesoff

Dorie

She wrote it the day she learned of the death

1 PETER 4:12 "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which
comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange
were happening to you."

Daniel

SERMON (Taped on May 31, 1987. Preached at Wheadon by Phyllis Jean Kinheart Athey.)

SILENT PRAYER

stand PRAYERS OF THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

stand where you are & hold hands - tell them to do

Carol

You are invited to offer a brief prayer. We will all respond with "Amen"

"THE ONES WHO'VE GONE BEFORE US" Dorie Ellzey Blesoff

Sit

WE COMMIT TO THE FUTURE

5:15
"A FUNERAL PLAINSONG..." Judy Grahm

Mary Jo

Stay seated
"GENTLE, ANGRY PEOPLE" Holly Near

A RITUAL OF CONNECTION AND COMMITMENT

B. J. We are an inter-faith community gathered here tonight and in this spirit we invite you all to join in a ritual of connection and commitment. The circle of connection is open to all.

Carol Mary Jo and Phyllis offered this ritual as a gift in their Covenant service in August, 1982, and Mary Jo offers it again in this community which has so many varied connections.

Greg This chalice of water holds the tears of the oppressed ones⁹ who've gone before us. I draw the sign of the tear on your face. We invite each of you in silence to draw the sign of the tear on the face of the person next to you.

Michael This basket of raisins is the dried-up dreams of the generations who were not free - the work and the hopes and the loved ones we have lost. As you eat of this basket, claim your connections to the past.

Joan T. This basket of fresh, cool grapes symbolizes our work - the task at hand - and our dreams and hopes. As you eat of this basket claim your connections with the fruit of the New Earth.

Dale, Ruth, Tasha and Megan - Presentation of the Bread

(Also others)

B. J. Let us feast on this bread - a mixture of the dried-up dreams and the New Earth wheat.

Carol May it feed us as we commit ourselves to continue on this journey of life.

B. J. We claim the past!

Carol We live in the present!

B. J. We move into the future saddened but stronger

Carol And full of hope!

Stand
"THAT CAUSE CAN NEITHER BE LOST NOR STAYED" Christian Ostergaard

WE GO FORTH IN LIFE!

BENEDICTION:* The Light has splintered our darkness.
God has called us to dance!
We go forth to answer with our lives.

B. J.

"LET IT BE A DANCE" Started with people in rug room, moved thru & gathered up those (c. 75) in Sherin Hall, then into sanctuary, following, out front door, to corner, into north door, & those
You are invited to stay for refreshments and conversation in Sherin Hall.

(Estimates of attendance 300-375)

* The Corporate Confession, Words of Assurance and Benediction were written by Phyllis Athey for Epiphany, 1982 and published from Wheadon United Methodist Church in "FLAMES OF THE SPIRIT" by Ruth Duck, 1985.

Grapes used in this service are from Chile. Every effort was made to honor the Farm Workers Boycott. We confess and live in the ambiguities.

Donations may be made to the Phyllis Athey Memorial Fund at Kinheart.

Many thanks to all of the people who helped make this service possible.

+ + + + +

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE OF CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF PHYLLIS JEAN KINHEART ATHEY

Betty Jo Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Clergy Appointed Pastor
Carol Ann Larson, Lay Associate Pastor
Donna Atkinson, District Superintendent, Northern District

Daniel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger
Dorie Ellzey Blesoff
Warren Dare
Gregory Dell
Dale, Ruth, Tasha and Megan Fast
Joan Frost
Mary Jo Osterman *Kinheart*
Caroline Presnell (Sherin Hall)
Jan Sieferman *(Center member)*
Nancy Swedlund
Joan Talmy *(Center member)*
Michael Troyer *(trained PSSH leader)*

Musicians: Janice Alderson
Dorothy Jean Furnish
Jan Graves
John Montgomery