

*Thanksgiving to God  
for the Life of  
Rhea Ellen Forum  
11/23/1942 – 03/07/2026*



*March 23, 2026  
Central Lutheran Church  
Eugene, Oregon*

## **CARILLON**

*The bells toll, once for each year of Rhea's life on earth.*

**PRELUDE** *Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring* - Bach Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

**CANDLE LIGHTING** Madison Thompson, Rhea's great-granddaughter

## **WELCOME**

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever. **Amen.**

# HYMN #504 A Mighty Fortress



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No



sword and shield vic - to - rious; He  
 would be lost, re - ject - ed. But  
 threat - ning to de - vour fear us, We  
 thanks to foes, who fear it; For



breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal - va - tion  
 now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God him - self e -  
 trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not o - ver -  
 God him - self fights by our side With weap - ons of the



glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic  
 lect - ed. You ask who this may  
 pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant  
 Spir - it; Were they to take our



foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful  
 be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus might - y  
 rage; In bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to  
 house, Goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a -



might he arms him - self to fight, On  
 Lord, God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He  
 fail; God's judg - ment must pre - vail; One  
 way, They can - not win the day; The



earth he has no e - qual.  
 holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister in Christ, Rhea. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**SOLO**    *There is a Balm in Gilead* - arr. Hayes      Alyse Jamieson, Mezzo

## FAMILY TRIBUTES

Jan Acorn, Rhea's daughter  
Alice Rotchstein, Rhea's sister  
Jeanne Olson, Rhea's sister

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

**SCRIPTURE READING John 14:27** Jeffrey Moat, Rhea's nephew  
Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to  
you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them  
be afraid."

**SOLO** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* Alyse Jamieson, Mezzo  
*(text based on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm)*

**GOSPEL READING John 3:16-17**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who  
believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not  
send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world  
might be saved through him.

**HOMILY** Pastor Laurie A. Jones

# HYMN #838 Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light & your peace. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Malotte*

Alyse Jamieson, Mezzo

## COMMENDATION

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Rhea.

Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**HYMN #840 Now Thank We All Our God** (*see opposite page*)

## **DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth in peace. In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** *Fantasia in G Minor, BWV 542* - Johann Sebastian Bach

## **PALLBEARERS:**

Aaron Forum, Christopher Forum, Brett Thompson, Cameron Acorn, Jack Richardson, and Jeffrey Moat.

*Following the service you are invited to join Rhea's family in the Parish Hall for a light luncheon and the opportunity to greet the family and share your own memories of Rhea.*

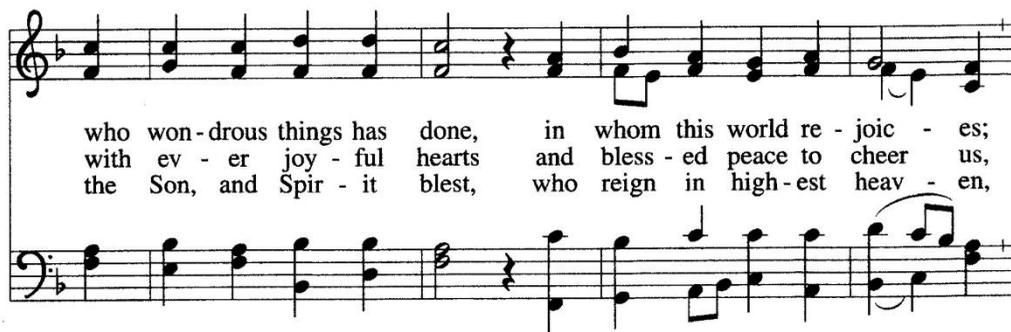


*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me even though they die, will live and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."*  
*John 11:25-26*

# HYMN #840 Now Thank We All Our God



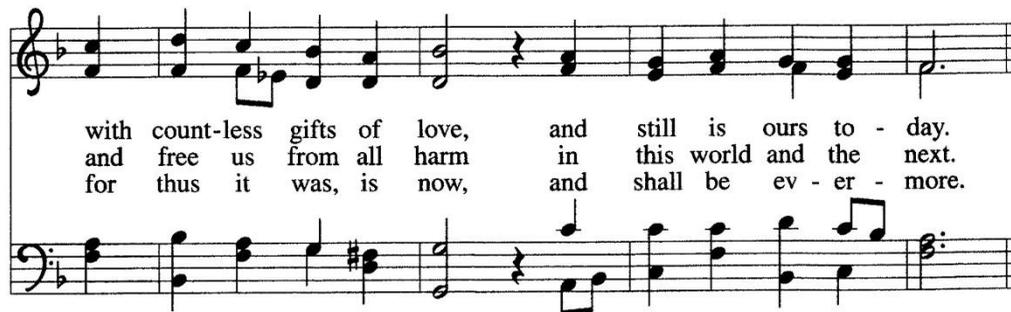
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

## **Rhea Ellen Forum**

### **1942 – 2026**



Dr. Rhea Ellen Forum (born Stone), age 83, passed away peacefully on March 7, 2026, in Eugene, Oregon. Born on November 23, 1942, in Miami, Arizona, Rhea lived a life filled with love, learning, and devotion to her family and faith.

Rhea graduated from North Phoenix High School in 1959 and pursued higher education with passion and determination. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Arizona State University before continuing her academic journey at the University of Oregon, where she received a Master's in Education. She furthered her studies with a Master's in Christian Family Counseling

from Bushnell University (formerly Northwest Christian) and ultimately achieved her PhD in Education.

Rhea began her teaching career in Phoenix, Arizona, before spending three years teaching in Southern California. She then settled in Eugene, Oregon, where she completed her career as an elementary school teacher. A passionate advocate for nurturing young minds, Rhea especially cherished the opportunity to teach the Talented and Gifted program. Her enthusiasm for education left an indelible mark on her students and colleagues alike.



Faith was central to Rhea’s life. Raised as a Christian at North Congregational Church in Phoenix, she later married the love of her life, Donald E. Forum Sr, in the same church. Throughout her life, she remained deeply committed to her faith, attending Worldwide Church of God and the Church of Christ in Florence, Oregon. Her spiritual foundation guided her actions and relationships, reflecting her unwavering belief in kindness and service.

Rhea shared 57 wonderful years of marriage with Donald before his passing. Together, they built a life rich with love

and family traditions. She is survived by three stepchildren: sons Donald Forum Jr. and John (Carol) Forum, and daughter Jan Acorn; two sisters Jeanne Olson and Alice Rotchtstein; as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Donald E. Forum Sr., brother Joel Stone Jr., and parents Eleanor and Joel Fay Stone.

A lifelong learner with an insatiable curiosity, Rhea had a deep love for reading and studying the Bible. Her family fondly remembers her as the family photographer who created cherished photo albums for everyone to treasure. She was also known for her culinary talents—her homemade cinnamon rolls were legendary among family gatherings—and she delighted in preparing sweet tea for Don after getting married.

Rhea's hobbies reflected her vibrant personality and creative spirit. She enjoyed playing the piano, ukulele, and accordion, singing in choirs, and attending musicals and plays. Volunteering was another passion of hers; after retiring from teaching, she dedicated time to serving at an elementary school, church, and hospital in Florence.

Family was at the heart of Rhea's life. She never missed an opportunity to celebrate milestones such as birthdays, anniversaries, or new births. Christmas was particularly special to her—she took great joy in wrapping presents for the entire family with care and creativity. Rhea's warmth, generosity, and genuine interest in others left a lasting impression on all who knew her and her gift for listening deeply and being fully present made everyone around her feel valued and loved. Her memory will be cherished by those whose lives she touched through her kindness, wisdom, and unwavering support.

May Rhea Ellen Forum's legacy of love and learning continue to inspire those who knew her best.