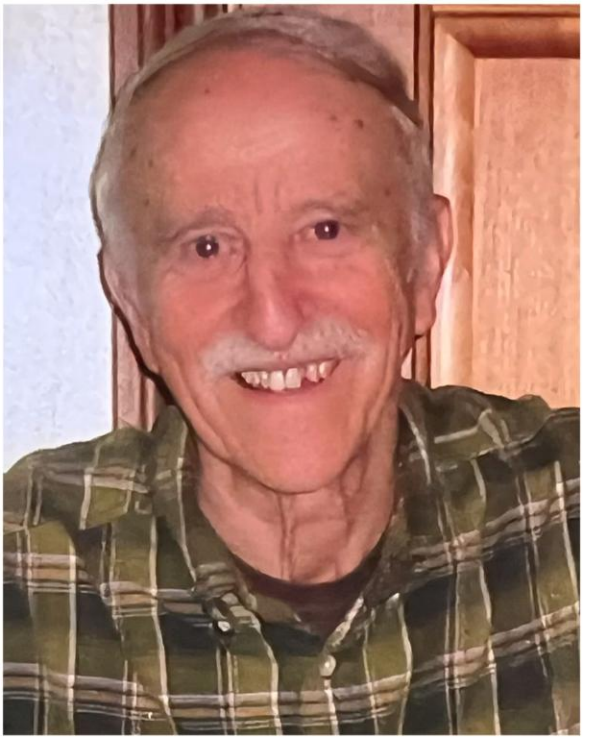
Celebration of the Life of

Gene Paul Pierson

May 20, 1933 – October 9, 2026



Central Lutheran Church
November 6, 2026
2:00pm

TOLLING OF THE BELLS The Carillon

The bells toll, one for each year of Gene's life

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Maigan & Sophia Pierson, Gene's granddaughters

PRELUDE Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook, Organist

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother in Christ, Gene, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

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 #879 *For the Beauty of the Earth (see page 10)*

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 brother in Christ, Gene. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console all 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 *Beautiful Dreamer*
David Van Wormer, Soloist
Marty Van Wormer, Pianist

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES Alice Rader, Gene's sister-in-law
Patrick Pierson, Gene's grandson

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40:31
A reading from Isaiah, the 40th chapter:
Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. The Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

A MEDLEY OF TUNES IN MEMORY OF GENE

Memory Tones
Harold Clark, Director

GOSPEL Luke 8: 22-24
The Gospel according to Luke, the 8th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. The disciples went to Jesus and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And waking up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm.
The Word of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HOMILY Pastor Laurie A. Jones

HYMN #890 *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory (see page 11)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, and ever. Amen.

COMMENDATION
Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant**,** Gene. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, 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.**

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 #779 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (see page 12)*

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God**.

POSTLUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* **-** Johann Sebastian Bach

Immediately following the service, you are invited to join Gene's family in the Parish Hall for light refreshments and a time of informal sharing.



Gene Paul Pierson

Gene Paul Pierson passed away at home on October 9, 2026 after 93 years of living a life full of adventure. He was born at home in Indiana, Indianapolis on May 20, 1933 and was the only child of Albert Theodore Pierson and Margaret Jane Blank Pierson.

After earning his Bachelor's Degree in Forestry from Purdue University, Gene was very proud to have served in the U. S. Navy from 1956 through 1958. He was stationed in Japan and was involved in a clandestine project in "the caves," intercepting and decoding Russian communication.

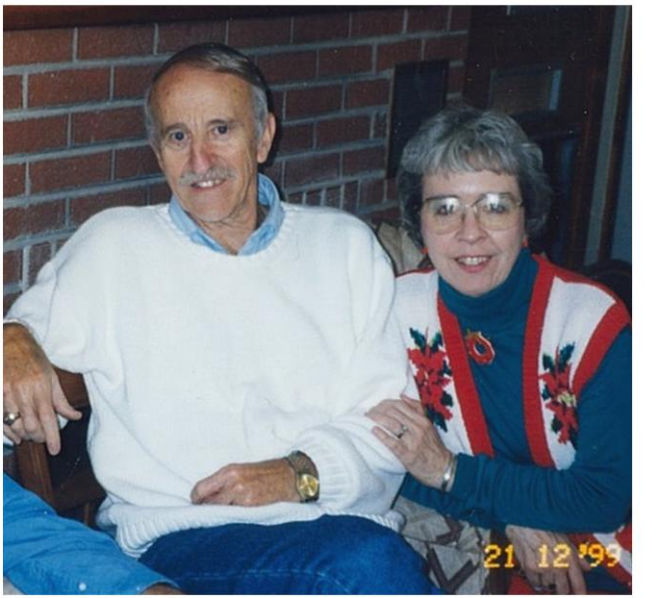


He then moved to Oregon and worked for the U.S. Forest Service where he met Karen Kay Elle while she was working a summer job as a secretary for the U.S. Forest Service. On December 17, 1961—two days after Karen graduated from college—the couple married in Lakeview, OR.



Gene continued his work with the Forest Service for 20 years, moving the family from Lakeview, Silver Lake, John Day, Star Ranger Station (Medford area), Mapleton, then Eugene.

After his work in Forestry, he became a real estate agent at Century 21. But those who knew him best remembered him not for his titles, but for his quick wit and mischievous sense of humor. Gene was a bit of a teaser who could make people laugh.



His dedication to the community was recognized when he received the Volunteer of the Month award in June 2008 for teaching outdoor science in his wife's kindergarten class at Eugene Christian School.



Throughout his life, Gene and his wife, Karen were members of various churches, wherever they lived. Most recently, Edgewood Evangelical Church, Westside Christian Church and Central Lutheran Church in Eugene.

Gene was a man who loved the outdoors in every season, whether he was cutting wood in the forest, working in his yard or spending time at the ocean searching for glass balls, agates, and treasures. He also loved hunting, fishing, he coached baseball, helped with the Boy Scouts, and loved watching NFL football. Gene had a gift for finding joy in simple things like feeding the squirrels and hummingbirds in his back yard and he was happiest when surrounded by family.



Gene is survived by his wife, Karen Kay Elle Pierson; his children Diane Moi (Erik) and Paul Pierson (Kari); his grandchildren Nathan Pierson, Maigan Pierson, Patrick Pierson (Laura) and Sophia Pierson; and his great grandson Franklin Lewis Pierson, just born May 4, 2026.
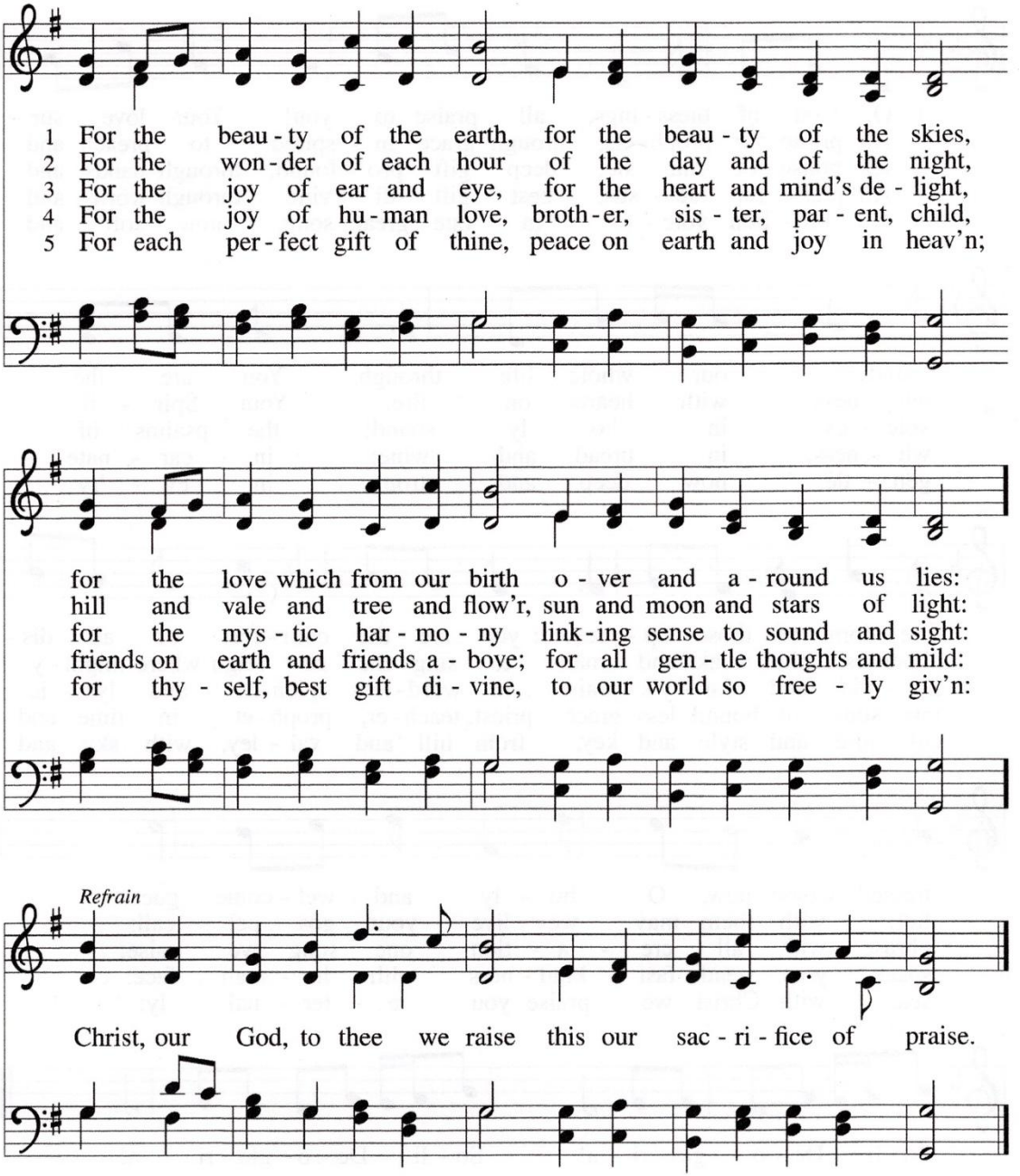


Gene's life was a testament to finding contentment in honest work, natural beauty and the people who matter most. His life was centered on faith, service and love for his family.
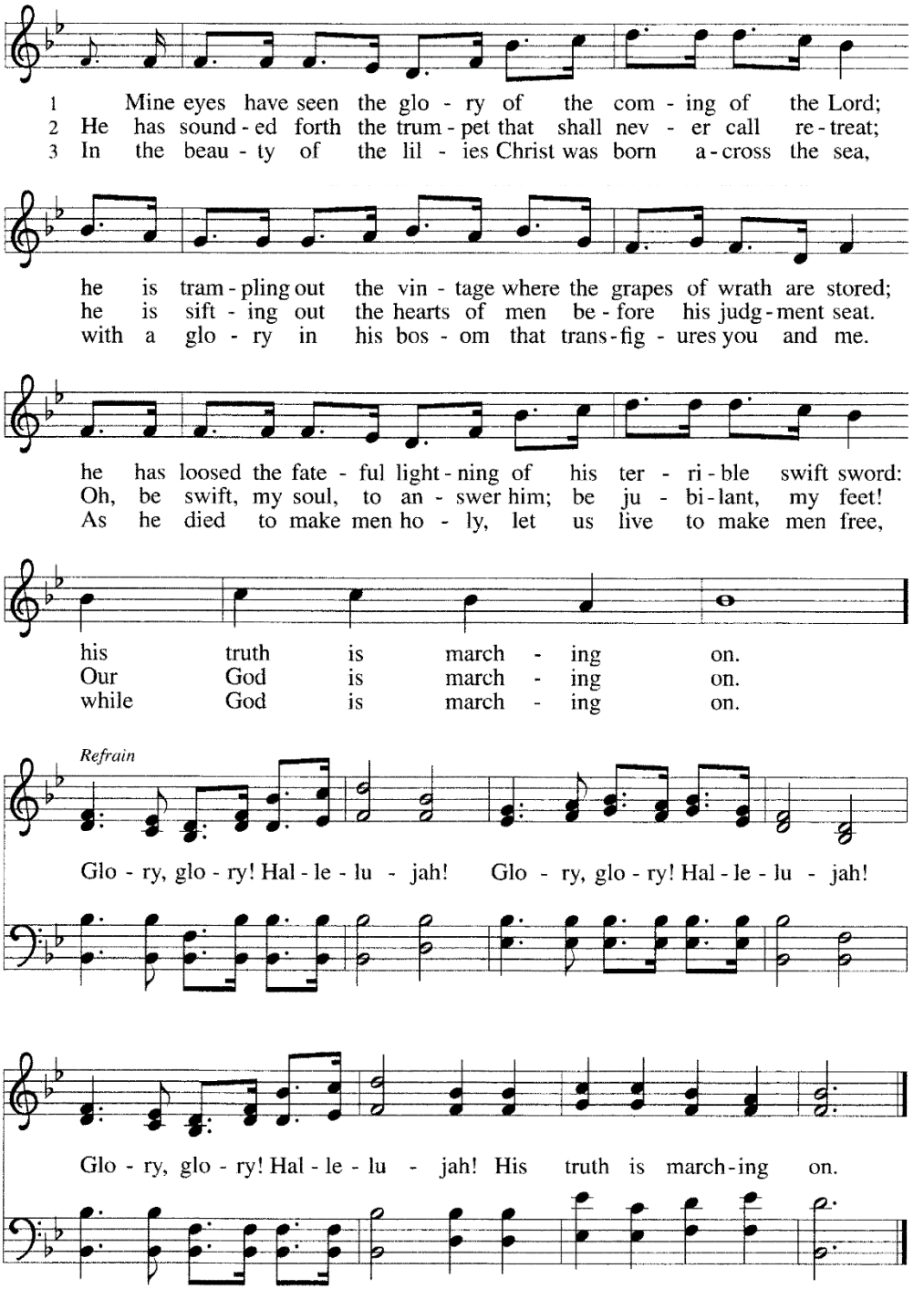




HYMN #879 *For the Beauty of the Earth*



HYMN #890 *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*



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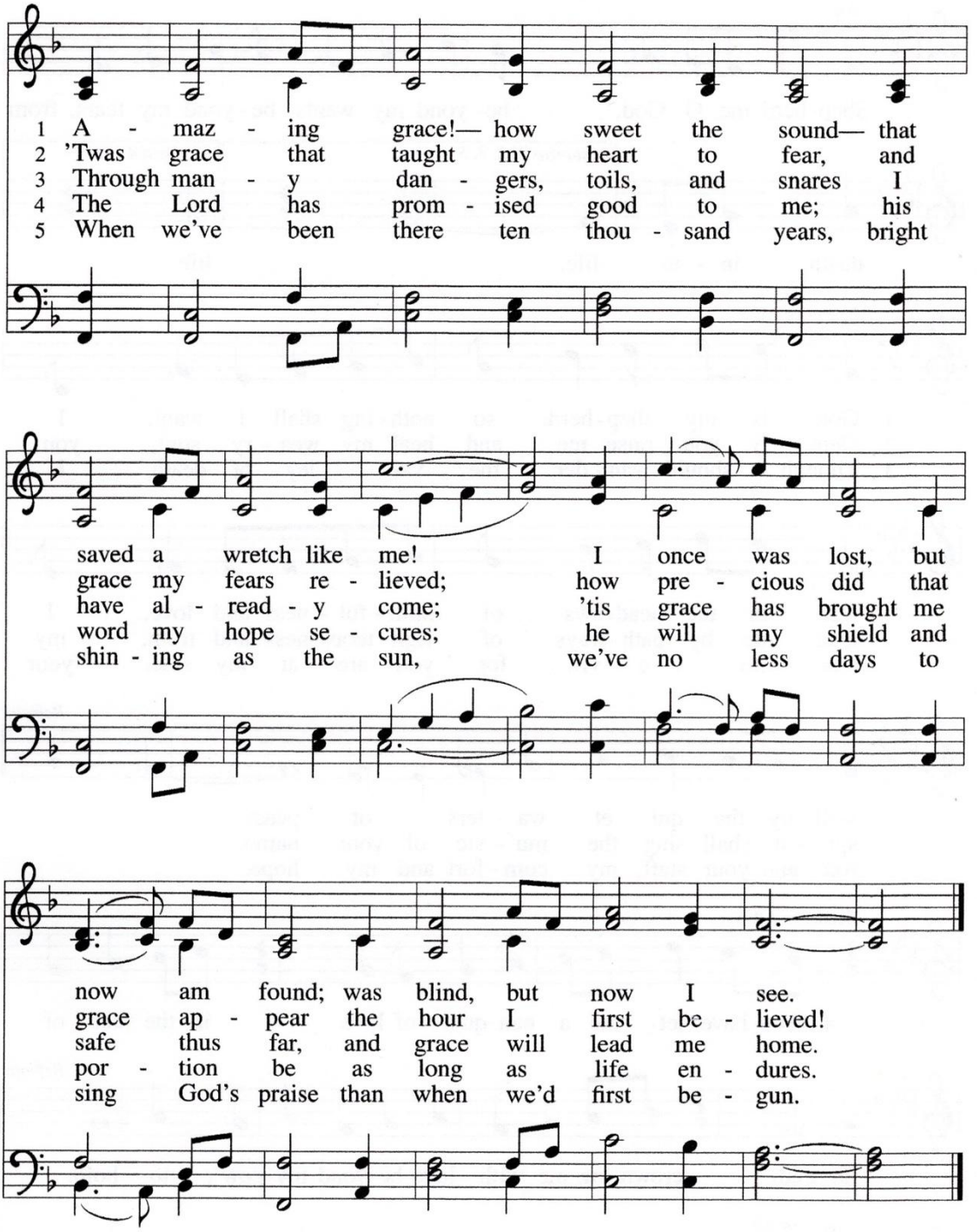
v. 1- all; v. 2 - soloist; v. 3 - men; v. 4 - women; v. 5 – all

