



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
United Church of Christ



Memorial Service for Ellen “Nell” Cronk

There will be a memorial service for Ellen "Nell" Cronk, Sunday, September 6, at 4 p.m., EDT via Zoom. The following is the link for that service:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84599891315?pwd=ckZ0OHc0K1NwWHBUOTdzTndCYmxzdz09>

Please note this is **NOT** the same link as for Sunday morning worship. If you need to call in for this service, you can use the same **phone number** as Sunday morning, but the Meeting ID is: 845 9989 1315 and the passcode is: 668272. I hope you will consider joining this meeting to remember Nell.

Reflections from Pastor Brooke for September 4, 2020

Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. ~ Psalm 149:5

I promise you, I did not make up this verse in the Bible! It's as if this passage was written for the time of COVID: when we indeed exult our glory for God from our couches and sing from there, too. I know that sitting in front of our computers is not the same as sitting in a pew or sitting with the choir; it's not the same for me, either. I have my days when I walk into church and look into that empty sanctuary and I feel sad. I don't get to look people in the eyes, let alone see them smile. I don't get to hear the music "live." Yes, there are things that I miss from in-person worship.

But there is still so much that is a part of our worship each week — from our couches (or chairs, or porches, or patios). We still lift our voices in praise of God each week in our call to worship. We still go to God in prayer. We still get to hear Jason play, soloists and the choir sing, and we still have the ability to sing — it's just from our couches. My theological belief is that the Holy Spirit is everywhere, and therefore when I invoke the Holy Spirit upon your communion elements, I believe she is there doing holy work. That allows us to still be able to celebrate that sacred meal.

I also know that our 9 a.m. lawn service has met a need for people to gather together and provide some much needed and sorely missed fellowship, while still being safe. If you have not tried it yet, set that alarm and give it a try this Sunday. I have said that we will continue with that service until the snow flies or until it becomes too cold to sit out there.

I am not trying to dismiss anyone's feelings of grief during this time; it is difficult. But sometimes, we need only to look to the psalmist, who will remind us that singing for joy from our couches is exactly what God has suggested we do.

Blessings,

Pastor Brooke