



A Service in Memory of
Brenda Olive McDonald
February 12, 1931 ~ November 23, 2024

Friday, April 4th, 2025 2 pm

Saint Catherine's Anglican Church

***In Loving Memory of
Brenda McDonald***

Officiant: Rev. Sharon Smith

*While the music plays, we invite you into
a time of quiet reflection.*

Prelude Music: Hyejung Jun

Please stand as you are able.

Priest: I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
and is committed to me in faith,
shall not die for ever. *John 11.25-26*

Let not your hearts be troubled;
believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many rooms;
if it were not so, would I have told you
that I go to prepare a place for you?
And when I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you to myself,
that where I am you may be also. *John 14.1-3*

I am sure that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8.38-39*

Words of Welcome and Intention – Rev. Sharon

Opening Hymn: How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]

Greeting

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
 And the love of God
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
 Be with you

All: **And also with you.**

Opening Prayer:

Presider: God of all consolation,

**All: In your unending love and mercy
your turn the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life.**

**Show compassion to your people
in our sorrow.**

**Be our refuge and our strength
to lift us from the darkness of grief
to the peace and light of your presence.**

Amen.

First Reading: They Are Not Dead (Author Unknown)

Read by: Graeme Guy (grandson)

They are not dead,

Who leave us this great heritage of remembering joy.

They still live in our hearts,

In the happiness we knew, in the dreams we shared.

They still breathe,

In the lingering fragrance, windblown, from their favourite
flowers. They still smile in the moonlight's silver,

And laugh in the sunlight's sparkling gold.

They still speak in the echoes of the words we've heard them
say again and again.

They still move,

In the rhythm of waving grasses, in the dance of the tossing
branches.

They are not dead;

Their memory is warm in our hearts, comfort in our sorrow.

They are not apart from us, but part OF us,

For love is eternal,

And those we love shall be with us throughout all eternity.

Psalm 23 (sung)

The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake;

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still;

My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Second Reading: In Lieu of Flowers (by Shawna Lemay)
Read by Hannah Brennan (granddaughter)

Although I love flowers very much, I won't see them when I'm gone. So in lieu of flowers....

Buy a book of poetry written by someone still alive, sit outside with a cup of tea, a glass of wine, and read it out loud, by yourself or to someone, or silently.

Spend some time with a single flower. A rose maybe. Smell it, touch the petals. Really look at it.

Drink a nice bottle of wine with someone you love. Or, Champagne. And think of what John Maynard Keynes said, "My only regret in life is that I did not drink more Champagne." Or what Dom Perignon said when he first tasted the stuff: "Come quickly! I am tasting stars!"

Take out a paint set and lay down some colours.

Watch birds. Common sparrows are fine. Pigeons, too. Geese are nice. Robins.

In lieu of flowers, walk in the trees and watch the light fall into it. Eat an apple, a really nice big one. I hope it's crisp.

Have a long soak in the bathtub with candles, maybe some rose petals.

Sit on the front stoop and watch the clouds. Have a dish of strawberry ice cream in my name.

If it's winter, have a cup of hot chocolate outside for me. If it's summer, a big glass of ice water.

If it's autumn, collect some leaves and press them in a book you love. I'd like that.

Sit and look out a window and write down what you see. Write some other things down.

In lieu of flowers,

I would wish for you to flower.

I would wish for you to blossom, to open, to be beautiful.

Remembering Brenda:

Family Slideshow and Eulogy.

Instrumental music: Send in the Clowns

Performed by Hyejung Jun

During the instrumental music, you are invited to light votive candles in memory of Brenda.

Pastoral Reflections: Rev. Sharon Smith

Prayers of the People: Ryan Brennan (grandson) and
Linda Robertson (friend)

The Lord's Prayer

Priest: 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 forever. Amen.**

Announcements – Rev. Sharon

Commendation:

Priest: Let us commend Brenda Olive MacDonald
to God's unfailing love.

Reflective stillness

Priest: Brenda, go forth from this world;
In the love of the God who created you;
In the mercy of Jesus Christ who redeemed you;
In the power of the Holy Spirit
who strengthens you.
May the heavenly host sustain you
And the company of heaven enfold you.
In communion with all God's children
May you dwell this day in peace. Amen.

May the light of heaven shine upon your soul
May the peace of God surround you
and make you whole
May the grace of Christ be
with you now and always.
May you rest in peace forever and ever always.
Amen

The Ringing of Bells

Blessing:

Life is short, and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those
who travel the way with us.
So be swift to love,
make haste to be kind
and the Blessing of God
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of our lives,
Be with you

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: On Eagles Wings

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 eagles' wings
bear you on the breath of dawn
make you to 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

Postlude: Hallelujah Chorus

*(Recording: performed by Joan Sutherland, Kenneth McKellar,
Adrian Boult: London Symphony Orchestra & Chorus)*



Following the service you are invited to join the
family for light refreshments at the back of the church.

During this time there will be an open mic for story telling.

Participants in the Service:

Officiant: Rev. Dr. Sharon Smith

Musician: Dr. Hyejung Jun

Greeters: Malcolm King, Brendan Guy, Jackson Guy,
Andrew Brennan (grandchildren)

Readers: Graeme Guy,
Hannah Brennan (grandchildren)

Prayers: Ryan Brennan (grandson),
Linda Robertson (friend)

Eulogists: Mike Guy (son)

Reception MC: Liam Guy (grandson)



Brenda McDonald Obituary

Brenda Olive McDonald, 93, of Vancouver, took her last breath in Sechelt Hospital on November 23, 2024. While her family are deeply saddened by her passing and profoundly miss her, they are blessed to remember with love and admiration, her long life well-lived. Born in London, England, to John and Olive (Buck) Nicholls, Brenda was predeceased by her two siblings, her three husbands, Thomas Guy, Harold McDonald, and Brian Wooding, and by her daughter-in-law, Susan Wiggin.

Brenda was 21 when she moved on her own to Canada, initially working as a secretary at CBC Toronto, then venturing to Vancouver with friends, where she met her first husband, Tom. They married, built a beautiful home in West Vancouver, and raised their four children. Brenda graduated from UBC with a teaching degree in 1977, soon after her beloved Tom died. She very quickly began her teaching career at Hillside Secondary, a career that lasted just nine years as she couldn't resist the lure of her long-time passion: acting. It was a brave decision, but she had the unwavering support of her second husband, Harold. It was the start of a 33-year career as a character actress that lasted until she was 88. Brenda performed in community theatre, on stage, in film, in training and educational videos, as well as doing voice-over work.

Over the years she shared the set with many of the greats and nearly-greats — and had stories about them all. She enjoyed memorable turns on many locally shot series, including X-Files, Stargate: Atlantis, Battlestar Galactica, and the Chilling Adventures of Sabrina. She kept cherished photos from movie shoots with Al Pacino, Robin Williams, Anthony Quinn, Paul Hogan, Katherine Hepburn, and many others. She is known by many for a single line delivered while playing the nun in Elf: “But the children love the books!”

Acting mirrored her own spunk and gift for invention and reinvention; working among young people in the film business kept her mind agile and engaged. Brenda had great verve, was a gifted storyteller and conversationalist, the stylish, charming focus of any party and an inspiration to many. She delighted in learning new skills, playing games, and always sought the funny side of life. She adored her grandkids, all of whom enjoyed a deep and special connection with their Gran. She was a lifelong learner, deciding later in life that the saxophone might be an interesting challenge, as well as enthusiastically jumping into many art classes, often together with Brian Wooding. Mum and Brian had a beautiful last decade together, a lovely epilogue to lives of shared experience, full of laughter, song, and wonderful good cheer.

Brenda is deeply missed by her children, Brian (Anna), Elizabeth, Michael (Jill), and Maura, grandchildren Ryan (Kathleen), Louise (Bryan), Andrew (Laura), Hannah (Mat), Liam (Sarah), Brendan (Savannah), Jackson (Jamie), Graeme (Mallory), Thomas (Waverley), Michaela (Jon) and Malcolm (Faith), and her eleven great-grandchildren. Brenda is also survived by her step-families whom she embraced as her own — Harold and Brian's children and their families — as well as by her sister-in-law, Leslie.

Cremation has taken place under the care of Devlin Funeral Home, Gibsons. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to Canucks Place, Doctors Without Borders, or the Sechelt Hospital Foundation



SAINT CATHERINE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

1058 Ridgewood Dr, North Vancouver, BC, V7R 1H8

T 604.985.0666

| saint-catherines.org