

MARY ADAIR FUNERAL SERVICE

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2:00 p.m. November 29, 1975 - Redding United Methodist Church, Redding, Iowa. Arthur L. Hill, Pastor

ORGAN PRELUDE

OPENING WORDS

We have come together in this service ~~first~~ primarily

for ONE PURPOSE: TO REMEMBER.

First, we come to remember Mary Adair in such a way that her life ^{continues} ~~is here~~ to make a difference to us.

And secondly, we come to remember what our Christian faith has to say to us when death comes to someone we love very much.

~~And~~ Our remembering will be ~~in~~ of two persons--Mary and of God as we know Him personally in Jesus.

Mary comes out of a life-long exposure to the Christian faith. Her life was influenced from the start by early childhood memories of familiar words which shaped her life: Words in Scripture which said:

- "THE ETERNAL GOD IS YOUR DWELLING PLACE, AND UNDERNEATH ARE THE EVERLASTING ARMS." (Deut. 33:27a)
- "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE; HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, THOUGH HE DIE, YET SHALL HE LIVE; AND WHOSOEVER LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE." (Jn 11:25-6)
- "FOR WE KNOW THAT IF THE EARTHLY TENT WE LIVE IN IS DESTROYED, WE HAVE A BUILDING FROM GOD, A HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS." (II Cor. 5:1)

- "BELOVED, LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER: FOR LOVE IS OF GOD, AND HE WHO LOVES IS BORN OF GOD AND KNOWS GOD." (I John 4:7)
- "IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD ABIDES IN US, AND HIS LOVE IS PERFECTED IN US." (I John 4:11b)

These words Mary knew remembered--and lived. Let us bow in prayer to the God whom Mary trusted.

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PRAYER:

Our heavenly Father--who has given us the zest for life--and the gracious gift of memory: Enable us this hour to thank you for the rich memories we have of Mary and the deep impact she has had on each of our lives.

We don't want to let go of her life. Her death took us off-guard. We weren't ready for her to go--yet we know that Mary was continually ready.

Comfort our hearts as we recall together the special memories about her quiet influence on all whose lives she touched.

Enable us to place our trust as fully in Your love, as she did. We have sensed the peace she experienced.

Give us this same peace which comes from reliance on Your promise of good to all who love and serve You.

This we ask in Your Son's name. Amen.

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DUET: "How Great Thou Art" by Vi Davis, Kathleen Freed

* * * * 14:7-12, 14.

SCRIPTURES: Job/19:23-27. John 14:1-3, 37. 13:34-35.

OBITUARY

MARY EMMA ADAIR was born June 7, 1894, a daughter of George Baily and Elizabeth Cartland, at Lisbon Falls, Maine. Her father was killed ~~She was reared in~~ in an accident while she was still a young child. She was reared in Maine until her family moved to Des Moines, Iowa while she was in her teen years.

At the age of 20, she taught school in the Redding community, then taught briefly at Casey, Iowa.

On June 10, 1920, she was married to Earl Adair in Redding, and resided the rest of her life in this community.

Six children were born to this union:

Margaret Elaine (Mrs. Marvin Kruse) of Melrose Park, Ill.; Dorothy Ruth, (Mrs. Walter Gonick) of Wallingford, Conn.; Alice May, (Mrs. Ralph A. Johnson) of Milwaukee, Wisc.; Marjorie and Francis, who both died in infancy; and John Wesley Adair of Omaha, Nebr.

When their family was grown, Earl and Mary moved to Melrose Park to be near their family. In 1960, ~~1969~~

they returned to Redding and resided on their farm during summers, spending winters in the south and with their children. Mary died November 27, 1975 ~~May~~ on Thanksgiving Day while visiting her son, John. Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband; Earl; her two children, Marjorie and Francis;

Surviving are four children: Margaret Elaine; Dorothy Ruth; Alice May; and John Wesley; 12 grandchildren; a sister, and other relatives and a host of friends.

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MEDITATION:

An obituary gives some basic facts and dates--but it doesn't tell us the things that really matter about a person.

Every
~~Each~~ human being is born and dies. And we can't help but wonder at the time of death, "WHAT DIFFERENCE DID HE OR SHE MAKE? IS THAT ALL THERE IS?"

I'd like you to do some sharing with me in your mind:
"WHAT KIND OF MEMORIES DID SHE GIVE YOU?"

"HOW WAS SHE UNIQUE AND SPECIAL TO YOU?"

In the Gospel of John, Jesus said: "I COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY." (John 10:10)

At the last supper, he said: "EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THIS WINE IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME." "REMEMBER ME!"

I think these words fit Mary: She came among us that we could have life, and have it abundantly.

And I think her impact on us continues far beyond her death when we remember her.

Mary was unique and special in several ways. I'd like to share these thoughts with you. See if they ring true in your memories of her:

1. MARY HAD A SPECIAL ABILITY TO TOUCH PEOPLE'S LIVES.

She literally kept in close touch with her own family members, and with precious friends, in a way which improved their lives.

She had a special gift of ^{sending} ~~knowing~~ the right time to touch a friend's life, so that her words and outlook made a difference. She was sensitive to where the ~~with~~ other person was in his or her struggles with living, and was able to reach out to touch that need.

2. Secondly, MARY WAS A TRUE GIVER. Her contributions to others included no thought of any return. She had the ability to give to others the capacity and tools to cope with life out of their own resources. She could draw the best out of others, and strengthen their living. ~~When she touched a life, it was like this:~~ There was something healthy and wholesome done when she touched a life. Those of you who know her best have felt that touch. She made changes in the kind of person you are becoming.

3. A third word describes Mary: SHE WAS LIKE LEAVEN.

She seldom initiated a new organization or group--but like the leaven in a loaf of bread, she worked quietly wherever she was--in family, church, garden club, neighborhood--to make things better from within.

In this sense, she ~~was co-organizer of~~ ^{generated} good wherever she was. When she became a member of a group,, she contributed to it a more worthy purpose for existing.

She gave it a deeper soul---heart--spirit.

And like leaven, she did it so quietly and indirectly, so naturally and graciously, it was done almost without notice. Her actions had a higher purpose than the surface purpose in every relationship.

WHY WAS SHE ABLE TO HAVE SO MUCH INFLUENCE ON OTHERS?

We can ~~xxx~~ see five reasons in Mary's life:

One, SHE KNEW HERSELF. She had an inner understanding of who she was; had a strong ~~self~~ sense of self-identity. She saw herself as one of God's people.
~~She knew who she was.~~ You knew who she was.

Two, SHE HAD A CONSISTENCY OF LIFE STYLE. She had forged a strong philosophy of life, and was comfortable with who she was. She didn't drift about aimlessly from one belief to another.

Third, SHE HAD A PURPOSEFUL LIFE. She held ^esteadfastly to basic truths about what life is like, grounded in the Christian faith.

Fourth, ~~THE~~ RESULT WAS, SHE WAS TRUSTED AND RESPECTED.

She was dependable. She had integrity. She had found what principles and truths of life work, and applied these in every setting.

Others knew that they could trust her, because she remained true to herself, and to God. You didn't have to worry about Mary's motives.

Finally, BECAUSE SHE LIVED MANY YEARS, SHE HAD ADDED
IMPACT ON ALL OF YOU.

It's such a waste when a person travels through most
of life before he finds who he is, and what life is
for.

Mary had an inner knowledge of herself while young--
and she didn't waste years of drifting before she
settled into making solid contributions to others.

CONCLUSION:

look
When you ~~look~~ behind all the things Mary was--her
thoughtfulness--her kindness--her gentleness--her
strength--what made her be like that?

I think it was her life goal: To create a higher level--
a higher quality of life for others, in whatever she did.

I said that Mary's life fit the quotation from the Gospel
of John: "I COME THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT
ABUNDANTLY." (10:10) Life for you as family and friends
has been more abundant because Mary lived with you.

This is what keeps death from being tragic and wasted!

The significance of her life--and yours--doesn't end with
death/ WHAT KIND OF MEMORIES ARE WE LEAVING?

Her ~~life~~ death--and yours--is not tragic, if you have made an impact on persons which will continue far beyond your life.

Mary gave us higher memories, which make the rest of us better. Her contributions have guided others to be what SHE WAS.

With Jesus, she can say, "DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME." And when we do, we have kept faith with her.

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PRAYER:

God our Father: In remembrance, we commit into your hands the life of one who has been especially precious to us--for she gave us herself: Her greatest gift. See that her love--her efforts--her influence--do not fade away, but are carried on in our own way of living. We have no fears for her destination--for you provide a place for all who love and serve You. Be also with us, as we pick up life again and continue our course. Help us to keep the faith as she did so consistently. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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DUET:

by Vi Davis, KATHLEEN Freed.

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NOTICE:

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BENEDICTION:

The peace of God, which passes all human understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love
of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God, the Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit, be with you and abide with you forever. Amen.

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ORGAN POSTLUDE