

Prayer

Offered By Richard A. Rhem
At the Memorial Service for Margaret Feldmann Kruizenga

Freedom Village, Holland, Michigan
May 25, 2013

Oh God, beyond our fathoming,
eternal, infinite –
terms we use to describe what is indescribable –
we bow in these moments
conscious that we are in the presence of Mystery,
a Mystery that embraces us
and will always defy our lust to define, to reduce to manageable terms,
yet a Mystery not all mysterious
for, eternal though You be,
You have taken time for us.

In the beginning You stepped out of eternity's depths
and called a world into being.
In the fullness of time You spoke once more
and the Word that wrought our time became flesh in our midst;
a human face gave shape to the glory of Your being
and revealed You full of grace,
mediated to us through the Presence of Your Spirit.
Thus, on the morrow, the Lord's Day, Trinity Sunday,
we shall worship You,
Father/Son/Holy Spirit,
in whom we live and move and have our being.

When we have done our best to grasp you, image you,
only one thing matters –
Eternal Love that came to expression in the face of Jesus.
God is Love.
All of our theology and philosophy,
our reasoning and our wondering,
comes down to that:
God is Love.

Thus Margaret knew you, trusted you,
committed her life to you in her love
of family, her community, whomever crossed her path in need.
We remember and we give thanks.

Images tumble through our minds
of the way she was, larger than life.
Perhaps her fondest dream, her greatest gift,
was the Art Museum for which ground was broken yesterday.
How ironic, O God of Mystery,
that this Memorial Day Weekend should see
the realization of her dream and
the celebration of her life in death.
Yet so it is and, not denying the grief,
still there is something rather beautiful –
in her death her crowning achievement realized.

We remember and give thanks for this one
who touched so many with grace,
whose heart was large enough to embrace a broad and diverse community,
whose wisdom aided so many onto the paths of well-being.

We remember and we give thanks for this remarkable woman,
this Margaret Feldmann Kruizenga,
strong of mind and will,
strong of conviction and of faith,
yet generous, full of life, good humor,
loving to delight,
one whose strong presence made a difference.

And in such a time as this,
in such a place as this,
Gracious God,
we are grateful above all
that the end is not broken health and dreams unfulfilled,
swallowed up in death,
but rather the confidence that
to live is to live unto the Lord,
and to die is to die unto the Lord.
So then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's.

Receive our thanksgiving, O God.
Grant the comfort of Your Spirit,
renew our hope and lead us on
in the confidence that nothing can ever separate us
from Your love in Christ Jesus our Lord,
Amen.