

REMEMBERING

Carolyn Sue Houltberg, 90, of Woodstock, Vermont, was called home to be with her Lord on October 28, 2023 at the Jack Byrne Center. Sue was born April 16, 1933 in West Allis, Wisconsin, daughter of Walter and Eureath (Galloway) Reed.

Sue grew up in Virginia, Indiana, and Wisconsin, in a Swedish family, with her parents, and her much loved brother Bill. She graduated from Washington High School in Milwaukee.

She married Richard Houltberg and they had one daughter, Kristen (HWarren of Woodstock, VT. Sue went back to school and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She worked at the University of Missouri-KC for more than 20 years, and it was during that time that she met and befriended Adrian who became part of the family and a loving caregiver.

She loved Albuquerque, NM. When she moved there to work for her brother Bill's company, Institute for Intergovernmental Research, God had an unexpected gift for her. It didn't seem so at first. As much as she loved the mountains and the adobe homes, she couldn't find a Lutheran church where she fit. One Sunday she visited the little church in her neighborhood. She was welcomed by Father Robert and his congregation. While she had always considered herself a Christian, Robert's preaching about Jesus challenged her in all the best ways. She experienced a renewal of spirit that really transformed her life. It was his emphasis on *the Bible as the authoritative Word of God* that so moved her.

After the sudden death of her brother, Bill, Sue and Adrian moved to Portland, Maine and lived next door to her only daughter Kristen, son-in-law Doug Warren, and their four children. She was Nana to them and soon that's what everyone called her as their exuberance over their beloved Nana was contagious. She in turn showered them with constant love and provided them a special place of peace and nurturing. They especially remember Nana for her unique blend of sass and wit, which brought joy and laughter to countless moments. Her quick quips and humorous observations added a special light to every gathering. Her mannerisms, both grand and subtle, are etched into the family that remains here after her passing. Her unyielding faith in her Savior marked her with a profound love for God and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

Sue is survived by her husband, Adrian Garcia Gonzalez, Kristen and Doug Warren, her grandchildren Donnelly (Lucy), Karis, Libby, and Colby Warren, and her great-granddaughter Faelyn.

Sue is predeceased by her beloved parents, an older brother who died in infancy, her first husband Richard, and her brother Bill Reed.

CELEBRATION OF GOD'S GRACE



CAROLYN SUE HOULTBERG

April 16, 1933-October 28, 2023

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

2:00 PM

MEMORIAL SERVICE

“Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also *the resurrection of the dead*. For as in Adam all die, so also *in Christ shall all be made alive.*” —*First Corinthians 15:20-22*

*This is a time for family and friends to gather together in celebration & remembrance.
We celebrate Sue's life and legacy even as we mourn our loss in her passing.*

Prelude

Welcome Pastor Douglas Warren

Opening Prayer Pastor Warren

Song #221 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Congregation

Scripture Reading *Psalms 23* Donnelly & Lucy Warren

Remembering Nana Libby Warren

Special Music Jonathan & Annie Denham

Prayer *Book of Common Prayer* Pastor

Homily *Rejoice!* Pastor Warren
Luke 15:13-18

Song #691 *It Is Well With My Soul* Congregation

Prayer & Benediction Pastor Warren

Postlude

~~Organist: Jonathan Denham~~

Please stay for the reception after the service.

Sue's family thanks you for your support & encouragement.

REFLECTIONS

Nana loved Jesus very much, but her confidence was *not* in how much *she* loved Him, but in how much *He* loved her—enough to go to the cross to save her. She came to understand from the Bible that her efforts to be a good enough person would never be enough, she needed the unmerited favor God gave her on the cross of Jesus Christ. Please allow me to share with you *three important words* to better understand the faith that Sue had in Jesus as her Savior and Lord. They are repent, believe, and identify.

Repent. This means first, to stop and to turn from all the various ways we disobey God and to start obeying Him instead. God has made Himself evident to all people even though we suppress that knowledge, but if we want to know Him as He truly is, the Bible shows us how to live through obedience to His holy calling.

Believe. Jesus calls us to stop believing *the lie that we can save ourselves* or that any other thing can save us. He tells us to trust that He is the only way to God the Father. To believe *in* Christ is more than just believing that He was born; it's trusting Him *to the exclusion of all else*. What Jesus was born to do was to live the perfect life of obedience we fail to live, and then die as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. His death on the cross paid the penalty for our rebellion and His resurrection from the dead, on Easter morning, declared that His sacrifice was accepted by God the Father. To believe in Jesus is to trust His life, death, and resurrection for our salvation to the exclusion of all else.

Identify. Jesus doesn't just save us as individuals; He saves us *into* His family. He adopts His followers as brothers and sisters. The practice of holy baptism is the historic way that the Bible requires to identify with this family of God. If you have never been baptized, then you should confirm your belief in Christ by being baptized into the membership of a Bible-believing church. If you have already been baptized, then you should profess your faith in Christ and be joined officially as a member.

If you would like to know more about this kind of personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, please contact me, Doug Warren, and I would love to talk with you more. *You can reach me on my cell phone at (802) 299-1623.*