

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JESSICA JENNETTE

If we were to describe the basic details of Jessica's life over the last few years, she might come off as unremarkable. She lived with her daughter; she went to church as often as she could; she spoke quietly; she loved to read. Once in a while she'd have lunch with friends. Sounds like the usual southern lady, right?

Except...when we got to know her even just a little bit more than that, we realized that there was something special about her. At Saint Andrew, all you had to do was attend one Bible study with her, and you realized how revered she was in our congregation. She'd begin to speak, always quietly, to share an idea she had. It was easy for someone else to accidentally speak over her, because she was so quiet. But always the person next to her would interrupt and say, "Hey, Jessica has something to say," and the whole room would get quiet and lean in. No one minded being interrupted to make sure we got to hear Jessica. We all knew that whatever she had to say would be thoughtful and insightful. It came from her sharp, creative mind, her deep love for the message of the Gospel, and years of study.

Just one visit to a Bible study was all it took to know that this humble, soft-spoken woman was one of the wise, intellectual leaders of our congregation. Not because she took that place for herself, but because we all lifted her up to it, because she so clearly deserved it.

Jessica also ministered to many of us by writing cards. If someone in the congregation wasn't well, she sent them a get-well card – and I know she prayed for them, too. In this way she was not only an intellectual leader, but also a great source of care and love.

As we grieve our loss of Jessica, as we remember her, as we entrust her to God's eternal care, let's lean in to hear what she has to say one more time.

She chose these three readings for this service. As I read them, I was struck by the one message they all share, the one message Jessica surely wanted us to hear today: that God is worthy of our trust, and when we trust God, we find our suffering soothed, our burdens lightened, and our life restored.

May this be the hope and trust that carries those of us who miss her. Amen.

Jessica's Readings: Psalm 121; Matthew 11:28-30; John 6:35