



A Service of Celebration of Life

Nahida Halaby Gordon

(September 19, 1939 – June 21, 2024)

**Saturday, July 6, 2024, 10:00 am
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Wooster, Ohio**

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Thomas Shaw

Call to Worship

Rev. Andries Coetzee

Please join me responsively:

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.

Those who believe in me shall live,

even though they die,

and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Rev. Andries Coetzee

*Hymn

“This is My Song”

FINLANDIA

*The * in the liturgy indicates that you
are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

*This is my song, Oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my sacred shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating,
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
Oh hear my song, oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.*

*May truth and freedom come to every nation;
May peace abound where strife has raged so long;
That each may seek to love and build together,
A world united, righting every wrong;
A world united in its love for freedom,
Proclaiming peace together in one song.*

Music by Jean Sibelius (1899) / Words by Lloyd Stone (1934)

Scripture Reading – Matthew 5:1-11

Eulogy

Rev. Andries Coetzee

Hymn No. 373

O Day of Peace

JERUSALEM

Tribute by the Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel

Poetry Reading

Family Remembrances

Prayer of Remembrance

Rev. Andries Coetzee

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember her.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember her.
In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we remember her.
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
we remember her.
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
we remember her.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember her.
When we are weary and in need of strength,
we remember her.
When we are lost and sick at heart,
we remember her.
When we have joys we yearn to share,
we remember her.
So long as we live, they too shall live,
for they are now a part of us,
as we remember Nahida.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving
and The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Andries Coetzee

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Hymn No. 611** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee HYMN TO JOY

Benediction

Rev. Andries Coetzee

Postlude

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Thomas Shaw

Minister of Music, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel

Palestinian Christian leader and prominent figure in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Ordained in 1978, he became the first Palestinian-American to serve as Moderator of the denomination's 214th General Assembly in 2002.

Rev. Andries Coetzee

Interim Pastor at the Presbyterian United Church of Christ in Saratoga Springs, NY and former Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church