

Celebration of the Life of Annette Hawkins Balnicky
November 2, 1938 – January 25, 2018

PRELUDE Dwight Thomas, Organist

POSTING OF THE COLORS

OPENING REMARKS Rev. Jan Banker

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

PRAYER

O God, who gave us birth, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray. You know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Show us now your grace, that as we face the mystery of death we may see the light of eternity. Speak to us once more your solemn message of life and of death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days are here ended, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

CALL TO CONFESSION Unison

Holy God, you see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not always sought or done your will. We have not lived as your grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore to us the joy of your salvation now and forever.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HYMN OF PRAISE *"To God Be the Glory"* #634

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:28-31

SECOND READING Romans 8:14-23, 31-39

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Victory in Jesus" Arr. by Dwight Thomas

PSALTER Psalm 23 Unison

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff – they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GOSPEL READING John 14:1-6, 25-27

HOMILY Rev. Dr. Hal Jensen

PRAYER with the Lord's Prayer (Trespases...)

HYMN *"Blessed Assurance"* #839

BENEDICTION

RETIRING OF THE COLORS

"AMAZING GRACE" Bagpiper

Officiants
Rev. Jan Banker, Chaplain, Westminster Shores
Rev. Dr. Hal Jensen, Chaplain, Colonel, USAF, (RET)
Color Guard, American Legion 273
Bagpiper, _____

Annette Hawkins Balnicky

Annette Hawkins Balnicky died peacefully on January 25, 2018 in St. Petersburg, Florida, at the age of 79. Annette is survived by her husband, Robert “Bob” Balnicky, of Westminster Shores, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Annette was born on November 2, 1938 in Johnson City, Tennessee. She graduated from Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi, with a degree in Bible Studies. After graduating, Annette enlisted in the United States Navy and was commissioned as a line officer with the rank of ensign. During a 26-year distinguished career in the Navy, where she eventually achieved the rank of Commander, Annette flew as Administrative Officer in a transport squadron in Hawaii, and trained boat unit personnel to intercept drugs in Panama. In civilian life, Annette received her master’s degree in higher education from the University of Tennessee and later worked at Presbyterian-affiliated Tusculum College as Dean of Women and Director of Student Activities.

Annette and Bob were married on December 24, 1977. From that point on, the two were inseparable. Bound together by their faith and love for ministry, the two spent years traveling and preaching throughout the southern United States, including to African-American congregations in New Orleans, Louisiana, where they braved threats from the Ku Klux Klan in order to spread the Word to those in need.

Annette’s other passions included gardening and raising animals. During a visit to Annette and Bob’s home in Madeira Beach, FL, you were always sure to catch a glimpse of an exotic critter roaming the house or the lush and meticulously kept garden out back. From Siamese and Himalayan cats, which Annette and Bob bred, to ferrets, iguanas, and even a visiting Heron named “Chuck,” Annette and Bob’s home was a sanctuary and oasis for all those lucky enough to visit.

Annette was a true stalwart woman of faith and integrity, and a grand companion to Bob over all the decades. She will be laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery.

**Celebration of the Life of
Annette Hawkins Balnicky
November 2, 1938 – January 25, 2018
Blackburn Chapel, Westminster Shores
Saint Petersburg, Florida
Monday, February 12, 2018, at 11:00 a.m.**

