The Memorial Service of

**Marilou Homoney**

Pawlak Funeral Home,

1640 Smith Road,

Temperance, MI.

Sunday, March 10, 2019

from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.,

with memorial service at 3:00 p.m.

**SCRIPTURE**

The Scripture says…

***7****I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.****8****Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

When a person places their faith and trust in Jesus Christ… there is a hope that is born within their heart…for life after this life…it gives us hope…even after the grave.

So let’s turn to God in prayer and ask Him to help us through this time.

Would you pray with me?

**PRAYER**

Father we come to you this afternoon with a great burden on our hearts…we are saddened with the loss of Marilou Homoney…

and the thought of never again seeing her on this earth.

So we ask that you would lift us into the presence of Jesus who brings comfort and encouragement at times like these.

Help us today as we remember her life…

and give strength to those who were close to her…

the strength they will need to go on in the coming weeks and months ahead…

Those who’s lives were intertwined with hers will think back, and recall her life, and all she meant to them…

and as they realize the profound effect she had on them…

they will miss her deeply.

So we ask for mercy and grace to help them through this time,

this service today will be especially difficult for them.

We ask these things in Christ’s name. AMEN

**EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY**

We’ve gathered here this afternoon because someone you knew and loved went to be with the Lord a few days ago…

so we’re here today to begin the process of healing…

but we’re also here to **honor and celebrate Marilou’s life.**

So on behalf of CedarCreek Church, I am Pastor Ed Bellner

And we would like to offer our condolences first of all to…

**You – (Erin), Lawrence, Terri & David**

As well to all the rest of her **family members** and **friends**…

 who knew and loved her…

 please accept our deepest sympathy at your loss.

**Obituary of Marilou Homoney**

Marilou Homoney

On the morning of February 27th, Marilou Homoney, 80, arrived at the heavenly gates to be with her savior and embrace her beloved Gram and Mum. She was surrounded by her loving family. She is free in spirit, mind and body from the bond of dementia and multiple health issues.

She was born December 2, 1938 in Tarentum, PA to Lawrence George Homoney and Elizabeth McCarthy Homoney. She graduated from Oakmont, PA High School in 1957 when rock and roll filled the airwaves, and she didn’t want to miss a beat on the radio. She moved to Toledo, OH in 1974, but Pittsburgh was always home.

She was preceded in death by her mother, father, sister Patricia Hubbell, and cousin Karen Watt. She is survived by sisters Teddi Pukal, Beth McCabe, children Erin Homoney, Lawrence R. Hayes, Teresa Hayes-Lepiarz (Donald), and David Hayes (Theresa). Her grandchildren were the light of her life who gave her special purpose as they shared special times together that provided wonderful and often hilarious memories, especially those that spent the most time with her, Chelsea, Jake, Andrew and Alex.

She loved and was loved by family, and friends she came to know at Cedar Creek Church West Toledo Campus. She greeted everyone who came through the door with a hug. She believed in angels, loved birds, flowers and anything orange. …then details about today’s service followed

**SCRIPTURE**

In Psalm 34:18 the scriptures promise that…

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

**EULOGIES**

This is a family that is dear to my heart, Marilou would walk into the church on the weekend telling me how nice everyone was and how she loved to be there, and I would remind her that she was the one that made the place friendly, warm and welcoming, she was so nice, that it was easy for others to reflect the kindness she shared!

What I’d like to do is invite a few of her grandchildren up to provide us insight into her life through their eyes. Then I will be inviting you the opportunity to share something if you would like.

At this time I would like to invite her Grandson Andrew up to share a poem he wrote about his Grandma when he was a little boy.

And now Chelsea (husband Michael) will share a remembrance or two with us.

Jake Sarah Terri (Don) David (Teresa)

At this time I would like to invite anyone else that may desire to share a brief story, to come up.

And now I would like to invite Alex up to share with us his Grandma’s favorite song… Amazing Grace.

* I would like to share with you a poem from author David Harkins;

You can shed tears that she is gone, or you can smile because she has lived. You can close your eyes and pray that she’ll come back, or you can open your eyes and see all she’s left. Your heart can be empty because you can’t see her, or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember her only that she is gone, or you can cherish her memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back. Or you can do what she’d want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

 And I will take the liberty to add, “and give someone a ‘beautiful’ hug”.

**Wrap Up of reflections**

when you think back over her life…

many of the interactions and memories are the little things that seem almost insignificant at the time…

Marilou, had compassion and would take interest in others for the sake of adding value to their life!

Now those moments are the things that stand out…

and it’s now that you realize how important they really were.

One area of Marilou’s life was her commitment to Christ, and her desire for her family to know God!

My hope is that when you leave here today you will understand that the love of Jesus is for each of us!

Because of Marilou’s love of Christ and her interest in adding value to others, the best way I know to honor her, is to provide you with insight into Christ’s love.

**MESSAGE**

Our Lord’s Cross is the gateway into His life. His resurrection means that He has the power to convey His life to me.

I would like to take a few minutes and talk about the love of Christ that we read about in  **Romans 8:35-39** which reads like this;

35Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36(As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) 37No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. 39No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Bible assures us that when we pass from this life to the next…that God will be there with us.

The Love, Acceptance & Forgiveness that God offers… is offered to you and I through the person of Jesus Christ.

You may be sitting here today saying, “Jesus wouldn’t want me.”

I’d like to help you see that’s not true….

I love what Pastor Rick Warren says as he answers this simple question.

**Who did Jesus come for?**

Jesus came for the chewed up and the pushed around, the cracked up and the put down, the crossed off and the ripped off, the crying out and the run down.

Jesus came for the dropped out, the run over, the edged out, and the shrugged off. The shut in, the flamed out, the shut out, the smashed up.

Jesus came for the have not’s and the squeezed outs, the held back, and the stacked against.

Jesus came for the hung over, the strung out, the knocked down and the kicked around, the torn up and the thrown away. The left out, the loaded down, turned off and used up. Jesus came for the looked over, lorded over, the walked over and the washed out. For the led astray, the laid off, the leaned on, the letdown. He came for the messed up, the mixed up, the past over. The picked on, pilled on, the pinned down. Jesus came for the wiped out and the written off.

(Pause)

Jesus came for Marilou, Jesus came for me, Jesus came for you. God has never made a person he doesn’t love.

God has never made a person he doesn’t have a purpose for.

God has never made a person he doesn’t want to know.

We have the opportunity to trust in Jesus Christ who said…

*“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25)*

I don’t know **how your life has gone…**

What you have been overwhelmed with. What **sorrows you have faced…**

and the **challenges** of life on this earth…

or if deep inside you have an eager hope… if you’ve been looking for something you can truly count on.

As we read about in Romans 8:18-21…

18Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. 19For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, 21the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

God’s Word tells us that…

“*As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a*

 *flower of the field;*

The wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with

 those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children-with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.” *(Ps.103:15-18)*

We are gathered here today commit the **body**…of Marilou Homoney to its kindred dust;

…earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust…

…but we are committing her **spirit** to God.

Listen to the tremendous encouragement we have from Is.43:1-3…

*“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;*

 *I have summoned you by name; you are mine.*

*When you pass through the waters,*

 *I will be with you;*

*and when you pass through the rivers,*

 *they will not sweep over you.*

*When you walk through the fire,*

 *you will not be burned;*

*the flames will not set you ablaze.*

 *For I am the Lord, your God,*

*the Holy One of Israel, your Savior*;…”

The Bible assures us that when we pass from this life to the next…that God will be there with us.

He encourages us like a gentle and loving Father…

who has compassion on his children…

and He does this so that we will be comforted.

So even though Marilou’s **body** is no more…

we can take comfort in knowing that her **spirit…**is now with God.

A comfort that is offered to each one of us to have,

We find His forgiveness in…

**Romans 3:23-24**

I would like to read it to you from ‘The Message’

*Since we’ve compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we’re in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.*

In a moment, I’m going to say a closing prayer. If you haven’t done so already, you can open yourself up to Jesus during this time. I will invite those of you, who would like to experience a life with Christ, to pray with me. So, feel free to pray silently to him, right there in your chair. He’ll hear your every thought.

Let’s pray

**PRAYER**

With humble respect we come before the Father, 15from whom every familyin heaven and on earth is named, 16that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18may have strength to comprehend, 19and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now God we turn to you, I have been doing life on my own for too long. I want to receive the gift of faith and security that you have made available, by taking care of my sin on the cross. To receive the gift of hope, of eternal life with you. The gift of love. That you made possible by coming back from the dead. I want to walk with you from this day forward. I want to find my home with you. God, I know that I have sinned and fallen short of yourglory. But today I take comfort in your grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.