



*In Loving Memory*



*Walter M. Deans*

*1927 - 2023*

*A Service of Remembrance*

*Wednesday, August 9, 2023*

*11:00 a.m.*

*Old Tennent Church*

*Interment*

*Old Tennent Cemetery*

*454 Tennent Road*

*Tennent, NJ 07763*

*The Reverend Jessica Dixon-Ebner*

*Old Tennent Church*

# Order of Service

*Prelude*

*"Air in D Major" ..... Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

*Words of Welcome*

*Scripture*

*Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

*Scripture Reading*

*Homily and Remembrances*

*Prayer of Commendation*

*Blessing*

*Sending*

*Postlude*

*Traditional Hymn ..... arr: Harold Decco*

## Words of Welcome from the Pastor

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We gather today in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, to give thanks to God for the life of Walter M. Deans; loved one and friend. We gather in sadness and grief, but also with joy at the impact Walter has had on our lives and the world. As we remember today and praise God for his place in our lives, as we cry and laugh, remember and hope, share and listen, may we be bettered by this life well lived and the ways we are drawn together today.

*Scripture*

*Psalm 23 (KJV)*

*(In unison)*

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

## *Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer*

Loving God, we ask that you would be with us now as we grieve and say goodbye. Send your spirit of peace to be upon us. Wrap your loving arms around us. Give us comfort in knowing your beloved child is with you. Give us peace as the pain of this final saying goodbye stings our hearts. Give us laughter and joy as we remember this amazing person who has touched our lives. Be with us now Lord, through Jesus Christ whose prayer we say together now... **Our Father...**

## *Scripture*

*Romans 8:35, 37-39 (CEB)*

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## *Homily and Remembrances*

Rev. Jessica Dixon-Ebner

## *Prayer of Commendation*

God of Grace, we pray now for Walter who in baptism was given your promise of eternal life, we know that he is now in the company of your saints in heaven.

We pray for our brother in Christ who ate at Christ's table with us, and we have the sure hope that he, with all your people, will be raised up when all things are made new.

May he be held forever in your embrace.

We pray for those who are here today. May we find delight in memories of Walter as we comfort one another. May we feel God's healing power, and comfort one another as we offer a blessing for Walter.

For all who mourn, that they may be comforted by friends and family, and be given the grace to cope with their sadness.

We give you thanks O God, for your presence with us in good times and hard times, in life and in death, this day and every day.

While we give Walter into your loving embrace, we offer these words to him — in the midst of our loss that we are grateful that you lived your life among us. We are grateful for your presence, for your care, for the way you lived life with us. We take joy and relief in knowing that any suffering has ended. We ask you now for

forgiveness for any of the ways we may have hurt you in this life — and we forgive you for any of the ways you may have hurt us. We release you now into the Everlasting Arms. May you know Wholeness and Peace now and through all eternity.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus the Christ who walks with us through all of life's ways and death's trials. Amen.

*\*Music*

"I Come to the Garden Alone" .....C. Austin Miles (1912)  
(Please see insert)

*Blessing*

May the Lord bless and keep you.  
May the Lord be kind and gracious to you.  
May the Lord look on you with favor and bring you peace.  
Today and every day until we all meet in glory.  
Go in peace. To love and serve the Lord, remembering God's comfort and love.

*Sending*

As we go forth from this place, *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.* Amen.  
*Romans 15:13*

*Processional to Graveside*

Bagpipe: - Amazing Grace"



*Acknowledgements:*

*The Reverend Jessica Dixon-Ebner*

*Old Tennent Church*

*Organist: Tyler Scott*

*Bagpiper: Joe Simmons*

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.  
May God Bless and Keep You!