

# St. Olaf College

## Class of 1968 – 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion



## A Service of Remembrance

**Saturday, June 2, 2018, 9:30 AM**

**Boe Memorial Chapel**

### **Gathering Music**

*“Adagio” from the Enigma Variations  
By Sir Edward Elgar, Arr. Kenneth Jennings*

Ann Braaten

### **For your reflection:** Dietrich Bonhoeffer – “ON DEATH”

There is nothing that can replace the absence of someone dear to us, and one should not even attempt to do so. One must simply hold out and endure it. At first that sounds very hard, but at the same time it is also a great comfort. For to the extent the emptiness truly remains unfilled one remains connected to the other person through it. It is wrong to say that God fills the emptiness. God in no way fills it but much more leaves it precisely unfilled and thus helps us preserve - even in pain - the authentic relationship. Furthermore, the more beautiful and full the remembrances, the more difficult the separation. But gratitude transforms the torment of memory into silent joy. One bears what was lovely in the past not as a thorn but as a precious gift deep within, a hidden treasure of which one can always be certain.

## Welcome & Candle Lighting

Kirk Anderson

### Litany

Psalm 121

(group reads dark print)

I will lift my eyes to the hills; **from where is my help to come?**  
My help comes from the Lord, **the maker of heaven and earth.**  
The Lord will not let you be moved, **nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.**  
Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep, **for the Lord watches over you.**  
The sun will not strike you by day, **nor the moon by night.**  
The Lord will preserve you from all evil **and will keep your life.**  
The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
**from this time forth and for evermore.**

### Hymn

“Shall We Gather at the River” (verses 1 and 2)

ELW 423

Vs. 1: **Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

*Refrain:* **Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

Vs. 2: **On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. (refrain)**

**Text** “... then there were the years of pestilence - toil and travail, famine and disease. God knows how human beings could endure it all. And many did not - they lay down and died. ‘There is nothing to do about that,’ said they who survived. ‘We are all destined to die – that’s certain. Some must go now; others will have to go later. It’s all the same, is it not?’ The poor could find much wherewith to console themselves. And whisky was cheap in those days, and easy to get ...” (Giants in the Earth, Ole E. Rolvaag)

## Remembrance of Classmates



Martin Erickson  
08/30/1967



Richard Denny  
01/29/1968



Winston Parker  
05/09/1968



Ed McHenry  
12/21/1968



Kathryn Scott Peterson  
04/30/1979



Paula Tiedeman Cooper  
03/14/1992



Nile Newburn  
10/23/1994



Gail Goodrich DeVries  
11/12/1995



Paul Knutson  
03/02/1996



Haven Ofstie  
02/07/1997



Robin Tombers Erickson  
03/22/1999

## Prayer

God of All Being ... we celebrate our ancestors whose sacrifices and dreams are woven into the fabric of this day in ways often unacknowledged and unknown. We give thanks for their grit and perseverance, their faithfulness that so deeply sustained them. And for classmates who died so young, we sigh and groan and remember.

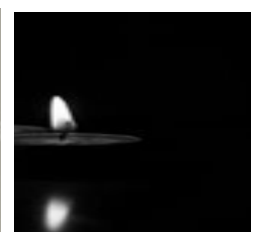
## Hymn

“O God Our Help in Ages Past”

ELW 632

Vs. 1: O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Vs. 4: A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.



**Text** ... on September 16, 1963, Dr. Sidney Rand was inaugurated President of St. Olaf College. Harold H. Ditmanson of the Religion Department was the keynote speaker:

*"All religion holds that to exist as a human being is to be surrounded by a mystery that does not diminish as knowledge increases."*

Dr. Rand followed with his six point creed, professing belief in God, people, education, hard work, the future and the college:

*"I believe in the future, a future that is brightest when in the care of well-educated and dedicated young men and women. I believe in St. Olaf College and I believe it must ever be a community of those who together seek to enrich the lives of one another and leave this a better world."*

(History of St. Olaf College, 1874-1974, Joseph M. Shaw)

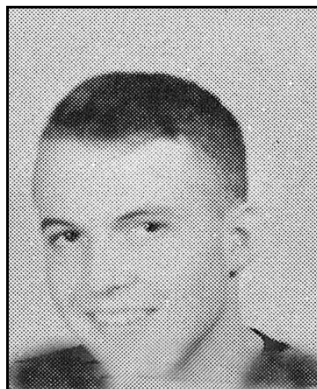
## Remembrance of Classmates



David Johnsrud  
12/22/2000



Gerda Raffaele Sherk  
10/01/2001



Charles Werner  
07/30/2002



Lee Nelsen  
11/04/2002



Sigrid Docken Mount  
05/02/2003



Arthur Lindeman  
12/24/2004



Sheila Brown  
03/01/2005



Kathleen Flohr  
08/16/2005





John Lauthen  
09/09/2005



Edward Rentner  
09/24/2005



Kathryn Slentz Milling  
11/14/2005



Lowell Satre  
01/14/2006

## Prayer

We remember those professors and administrators with whom we shared this time and space. We give thanks for their profound commitment to the liberal arts, their love of the freedom of inquiry, for the ways they framed our education in the broadest of terms. And for our classmates, now gone, with whom we shared this quest to learn and discover.

## Hymn

“Earth and All Stars”

ELW 731

**Vs. 1: Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets. Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Hail, wind, and rains! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song.**

**Vs. 4: Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song.**

**Vs. 5: Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son! Loud praying members! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song.**



**Text** ... Martin Luther King Jr. was in Memphis to support 1,300 black sanitation workers. It was April 3, 1968. He and Ralph Abernathy always stayed at the same motel – The Lorraine, Room 306. That evening he gave his, “I’ve been to the mountain top” speech at the Mason Temple to a small crowd, the weather was bad.

*“Well, I don’t know what will happen now. We’ve got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn’t matter with me now, because I’ve been to the mountain top. And I don’t mind.*

*Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s Will. And he’s allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I’ve looked over. And I’ve seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. So I’m happy tonight. I’m not worried about anything. I’m not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.”*

The next day at 6:01 PM a shot rang out. ([Killing the Dream](#), Gerald Posner, 1968)

## Remembrance of Classmates



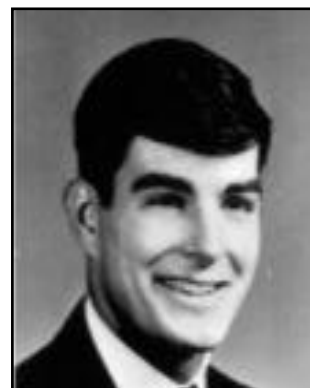
Roger Derrer  
03/27/2006



Wayne Ruhter  
10/01/2006



Glen Ernst  
10/29/2007



Peter Mark  
04/28/2008



Bruce Miller  
05/21/2008



Bruce Watson  
05/25/2009



Bruce Johnson  
10/02/2009



Gary Bohl  
11/24/2010



Layten Heckman  
12/13/2010



Steven Kohn  
12/30/2010



Linda Rasmussen Wood  
01/15/2011



Barbara Olson Hexum  
02/15/2011

## Prayer

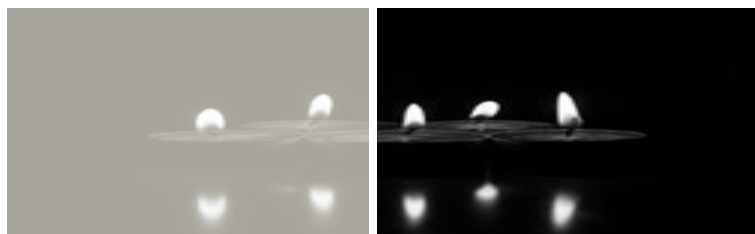
We celebrate all who have believed and marched on behalf of peace and justice.  
We recall today those people who have challenged us beyond fairy tales and nurtured us out of our ivory towers.  
On this day, we include those classmates, now gone, who lived with passion and conviction, who sang the justice song.

## Hymn

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

ELW 710

*Vs. 1:* Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;  
give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.  
The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights,  
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.  
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron power;  
Abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.



**Text** ... F. Melius Christianson and his wife Edith had seven children. Oldest Elmer died at the age of four from spinal meningitis; son Carl was severely injured in an automobile accident on his tenth birthday and died one day afterwards; daughter Tulluh died at the age of five. Jake, Olaf, Paul, and Elsa all lived long and productive lives. In 1912, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield, then considered the campus church for the college, the St. Olaf choir was born ..... amidst heartache, congregation, and text. F. Melius was the organist and issued a call for parishioners, students, and faculty to sing in the choir. Olaf was eleven years old - Paul yet to be born (1914). Together, these three, over the next seventy-four years, would give shape to a Lutheran Choral Tradition unparalleled in its devotion to strengthening congregational worship and promoting great choral music through a religious text. Each arranged, rearranged and directed the hymn, "*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*" many times. With rich memories of family, a love of God and God's church, their hearts (and faces) would swell with passion as they inspired the singing of the fourth verse:

*"Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen – sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!"*

Olaf directed the St. Olaf choir for twenty-seven years and retired in 1968.

(Paul G. Schmidt, Shaw-Olson Center for College History)

## Remembrance of Classmates



Pamela Smith Pierre  
12/01/2011



George Moffett  
02/25/2012



Cathi Mahin Lee  
02/17/2013



Paul Anderson  
04/15/2013





**Carol Sundahl**  
05/27/2014



**Nadine Ornborg**  
08/01/2014



**Jacquelyn Bergstedt Halvorson**  
02/16/2015



**Gail Petterson Horsley**  
05/13/2015



**Julie Lundquist**  
10/03/2015



**Thomas LaViolette**  
10/31/2015



**Charles LeFevre**  
01/30/2016



**Robert Bratager**  
02/23/2016

## **Prayer**

We remember all who have contributed to the priceless heritage of combining song and text. We join them in song today because we have the life and breath to sing their songs of thanks and praise. And in memory of classmates - some who loved to sing and maybe others not so much – but who would have loved to have been here today. Together we will sound their amen.

## **Hymn**

**“Praise To The Lord, The Almighty”**

ELW 858

**Vs. 4: Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!**

**All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!**

**Let the amen – sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!**



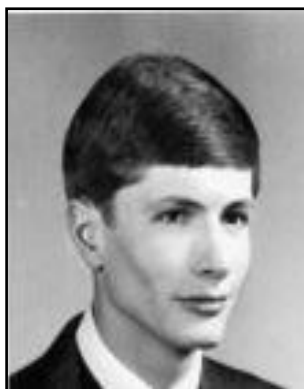
**Text** St. Olaf College was always a church college, but it didn't always have a pastor of its own until 1954 when Clifford Swanson was extended a letter of call to be the campus pastor. This became a popular idea for students and faculty ... to have their own pastor. A student congregation was even established, although a transfer from your home parish was not required for membership. Boe Memorial Chapel had just been completed. Both the new chapel and pastor provided exciting possibilities for the proclamation of God's Good News." Today, let us put ourselves back into "Boe" and hear the sonorous voice of Pastor Swanson, allowing it to nurture us, one more time, with the reading of Revelation 21:1-4. Listen for our God who wipes away every tear.

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;  
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and the sea was no more.  
And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband;  
And I heard a great voice from the throne saying,  
'Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them,  
and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more,  
neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more,  
for the former things have passed away.'"*

## Remembrance of Classmates



Ott Lukk  
03/21/2016



Martin Oyen  
03/13/2016



Karen Groth Jankowski  
04/15/2016



Jeanne Buross Herlihy  
11/21/2016



Patricia Hepler Lambrecht  
12/21/2016



Barbara Bratschi Johnson  
06/11/2017



Bohdan Melnychenko  
08/15/2017



Helen Sands Wigstrom  
11/08/2017



Gene Prescher  
03/12/2018



Susan Stan  
03/21/2018



Lewis Dokmo  
05/05/2018

## Prayer

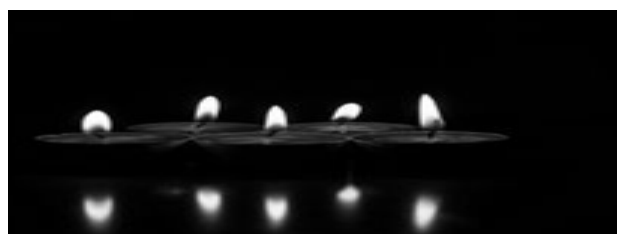
We remember today all who came to this place to grow strong in faith and hope.  
We celebrate those friends and classmates with whom we struggled to find God's Way.  
We give thanks for their humor, insights, doubts and bright light moments.  
Together we claim this God who dwells with us and wipes away our every tear.

## Hymn

"Shall We Gather at the River"

ELW 423

Vs. 4: Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.  
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river.  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God



## Memorial Prayer

*from a traditional Jewish memorial prayer for the deceased*

Gracious God, from whose heart we come and to which we return, we have gathered this day to remember and give thanks for our classmates at St. Olaf College, Class of 1968, who have died over these past fifty years.

**We pray that, encouraged by their legacies of love, we may be more deeply aware of the goodness and fragility of human life.**

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.

**In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.**

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

**In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.**

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

**In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.**

When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

**When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.**

When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.

**So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us,  
as we remember them. Thanks be to God!**

## Choral Benediction

“Nunc Dimittis”

Alexander Gretchaninov

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word.  
For mine own eyes hath seen Thy salvation,  
Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people.  
A light, to be a light, to lighten the nations,  
And to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

## Benediction

Kirk Anderson

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**AMEN.**

## Postlude

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Ann Braaten

Arr. Paul Manz

