

# Terri Yensz Funeral

December 10, 2025, 11:00 AM  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Amherst, NH



**Terri Yensz**

**August 18, 1955 — December 5, 2025**

Terri's family thanks everyone for attending today's service. Your prayers, thoughts, and overwhelming offers of support during this most difficult year have been felt and are most sincerely appreciated. Your outpouring of love has sustained us throughout Terri's illness, and we are forever grateful. Thank you.

## **PRELUDE MUSIC**

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

### **Terri L. Yensz**

Terri L. Yensz, 70, a resident of Milford, NH, entered the loving arms of Jesus on December 5, 2025. She passed away peacefully at home after a period of declining health, surrounded by the love of her family.

Terri was born on August 18, 1955, in Traverse City, MI, the daughter of William and Joanne (Janda) Nolff. She was raised and educated in Traverse City and later earned an associate's degree in Graphic Arts from Northwestern Michigan College.

In 1991, Terri married the love of her life, Michael Yensz, a Coast Guard officer. Together they shared more than 34 years of adventure as their life journey took them to Cape Cod, MA; New Orleans, LA; Honolulu, HI; and ultimately to Milford, NH, where they settled in 2006.

Terri's greatest joy was being a grandmother to her seven beloved grandchildren: Jordan, Zachary, Jacob, Andrew, Ariana, Maddox, and Braxton. She had a passion for photography, capturing family memories and the beauty of nature through her lens. Terri also loved to travel—among her fondest experiences were seeing polar bears in the wild in Northern Canada, embarking on an African safari in Tanzania, and visiting dear friends Leo and Simone during two trips to Brazil.

Closer to home, she cherished the time spent with her friends Suzanne, Nancy, and Dorothy. She enjoyed swimming, going to the beach, and searching for unique treasures at thrift stores and garage sales.

Terri is survived by her devoted husband, Michael Yensz of Milford, NH; her children, William and his wife Erin Marie Blodgett of FL, Jennifer and her husband Matthew Adams of CT, Benjamin and his wife Laura Blodgett of NH, Rachel Yensz of MA, and Bradley and his wife Heather Demma of NH; her seven grandchildren; and her sister, Judy (John) York of MI. She was predeceased by her brother, William "BJ" Nolff, and her parents.

## **GATHERING**

One: Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sister Terri, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

# THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

One: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

### Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



*Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

## ACCLAMATION

*please rise*

One: Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

**All: We glorify you.**

One: Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

**All: We praise you.**

One: Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

**All: We worship you.**

One: To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

*please be seated*

## GREETING

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ ✠ the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

One: Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Terri. We thank you for giving her to us to know and love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope, until, by your call, we are gathered into our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## WORD

Brad Demma

One: A reading from Isaiah the 43<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**43** But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3a</sup> For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made." (NRSVUE)

Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **A responsive reading of Psalm 23, NRSVUE**

Zachary Adams

One: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**All: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

One: he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**All: 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.**

One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

Heather Demma

One: A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter:

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (NRSVUE)

Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sharing Memories of Terri**

Mike Yensz

**Special Music**

**More than Wonderful**

© 1982 Lanny Wolfe Music Company CCLI #7552

**sung by Dorothy D'Anjou**

*please rise for the reading of the Gospel*

One: The Holy Gospel is found in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of the gospel of John:

[Jesus is speaking to his disciples:]

**14** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. **2** In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. **4** And you know the way to the place where I am going.” **5** Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” **6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

*please be seated*

**HOMILY**

Pastor Karl Hester

## Nearer My God to Thee

1. Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee!  
2. Though like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down,  
3. There let the way ap - pear, Steps un - to heav'n;  
4. Then, with my wak - ing thoughts Bright with thy praise,  
5. Or if, on joy - ful wing Cleav - ing the sky,

E'en though it be a cross That rais - eth me,  
Dark - ness be o - ver me, My rest a stone;  
All that thou send - est me, In mer - cy giv'n;  
Out of my ston - y griefs Beth - el I'll raise;  
Sun, moon, and stars for - got, Up - ward I fly,

Still all my song shall be, Near - er, my God, to thee;  
Yet in my dreams I'd be Near - er, my God, to thee;  
An - gels to beck - on me Near - er, my God, to thee;  
So by my woes to be Near - er, my God, to thee;  
Still all my song shall be, Near - er, my God, to thee;

Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee!

please rise

One: Let us confess the faith of Terri and of the Christian church in the words of the Apostles Creed:

**All: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*please be seated*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

# How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y

thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
 birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
 gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;

*Refrain*  
 Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou  
 art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to  
 thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to  
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly  
 bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou  
 art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to  
 thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me

home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -

ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989  
Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine  
Text and arr. © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP).  
Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

### Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## COMMENDATION

One: Let us commend Terri to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*silence is kept*

One: Into your hands, O merciful, Savior, we commend your servant, Terri Yensz. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **All: Amen.**

One: Let us go forth in peace.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen**

## POSTLUDE



Please join us for a luncheon here at the church immediately following the service.

Terri will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be determined.

The family requests that memorial gifts, if desired, be made to the church.

Messiah Lutheran Church  
303 Route 101, PO Box 488  
Amherst, NH 03031

Rev. Karl Hester, pastor  
Jon Abrams, music director  
[www.messiahnh.org](http://www.messiahnh.org)

OneLicense #A-731180  
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies #SAS016608  
CCLI #11467796

### **Pallbearers**

Ben Blodgett  
(Son)

Rachel Yensz  
(Daughter)

Brad Demma  
(Son)

Jordan Yensz  
(Grandson)

Zachary Adams  
(Grandson)

Jacob Adams  
(Grandson)