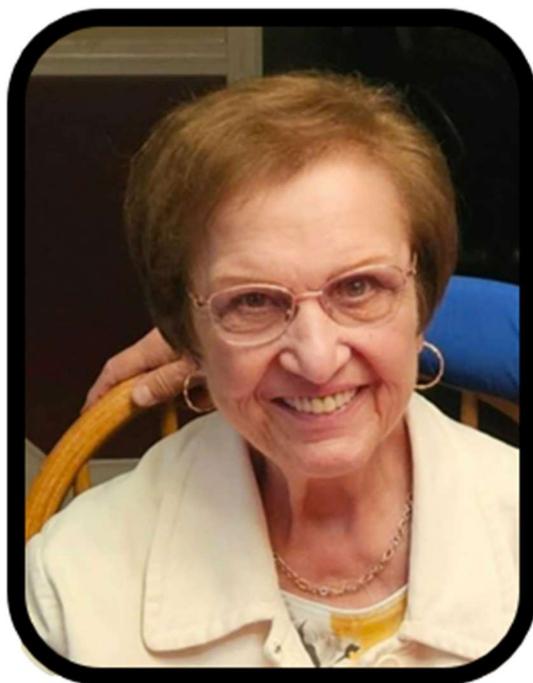


Funeral Service for Joan Dunn

March 30, 2026, 11:00 AM

Messiah Lutheran Church, Amherst, NH



Joan Dunn

December 7, 1942 — March 19, 2026

PRELUDE MUSIC

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Johann Sebastian Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME

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 Joan, 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

ELW 504 A Mighty Fortress is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat -'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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, Joan. 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

One: A reading from Romans 8:31-35, 37-39, NRSVUE

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ [†] who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.

Word of God, word of life. **All: Thanks be to God.**

A responsive reading of Psalm 121, NRSVUE

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

One: He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

**All: He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

One: The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

**All: The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.**

One: The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

**All: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

Sharing Memories of Joan

- Taylor Cordts
- Marge Ball
- others who would like to share

please rise for the reading of the Gospel

One: The Holy Gospel is found in John 14:1-6, NRSVUE

[Jesus is speaking to his disciples:] ¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas 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

In The Garden

Words and Music by
Charles Austin Miles

VERSE

♩ = 134

A^b **A^b7** **D^b**

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, while the dew is still on the
 2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice is so sweet the birds hush their
 3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him tho' the night a - round me be

A^b **E^b7** **A^b/C** **E^b** **A^b** **B^b7**

ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing on my ear, the Son of God dis -
 sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy that He gave to me with - in my heart is
 fall - ing; But He bids me go, thro' the voice of woe; His voice to me is

CHORUS

E^b **E^b7** **A^b** **E^b7/B^b** **E^b7**

8 - clos - es. And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His
 ring - ing.
 call - ing.

A^b **C7** **Fm** **A^b7/E^b** **D^b** **A^b/E^b** **E^b7** **A^b**

12 own; And the joy we share as we tar-ry there none oth-er has ev-er known.

please rise

One: Let us confess the faith of Joan 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

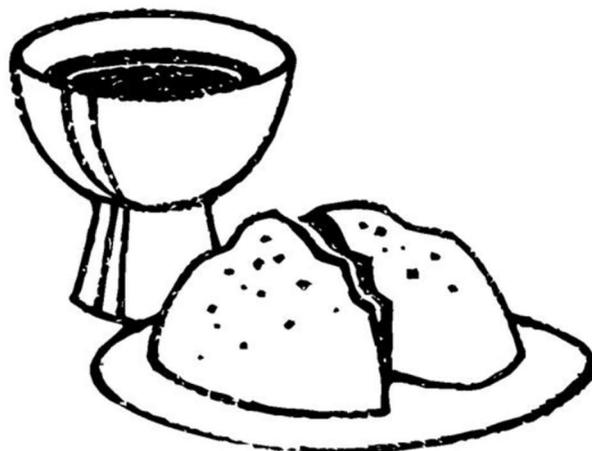
Lord, in your mercy...
Hear our prayer.

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

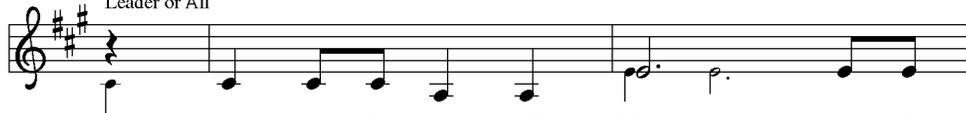


COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 485

I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . .
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
 I . . . am the life. . . . If you be -
 you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -
 drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his
 lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . . though you
 Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

Refrain

All



"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,



and I will raise you up on the last day."



Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6
 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM
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COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 493 Taste and See

Refrain - All

Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,
taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Leader or All

1 I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall
al-ways be on my lips; my soul shall glo-ry in the
Lord; for God has been so good to me. *Refrain*

2 Glo-ri - fy the Lord with me. To - geth-er let us
all praise God's name. I called the Lord, who an - swered
me; from all my trou-bles I was set free. *Refrain*

3 Wor-ship the Lord, all you peo-ple. You'll want for
noth-ing if you ask. Taste and see that the Lord is
good; in God we need put all our trust. *Refrain*

Text: James E. Moore Jr., b. 1951, based on Ps. 34
 Music: TASTE AND SEE, James E. Moore Jr.
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POST COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

COMMENDATION

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

silence is kept

One: Into your hands, O merciful, Savior, we commend your servant, Joan Dunn. 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.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 779 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

GRACE FOR MEAL

One: Let us go forth in peace.

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

POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision
Prayer of St. Francis
Now Thank We All Our God



You are invited to stay for a luncheon following the service.

Messiah Lutheran Church
303 Route 101
Amherst, NH 03031
www.messiahnh.org

Pastor Karl Hester, presiding minister
Jon Abrams, music director
Marge Ball, altar care
Deanna Cordts, communion bread
Rev. David Rinas, tech support

Adapted from sundaysandseasons.com.

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COMMITAL graveside liturgy to be performed at Meadowview Cemetery in Amherst at a future date TBD

Joan Dunn
December 7, 1942 – March 19, 2026

Joan Dunn, 83, of Amherst, New Hampshire, passed away peacefully after a short illness on March 19, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Joan was born on December 7, 1942, in Brooklyn, NY, to Samuel and Edna Meisler. She attended Martin Van Buren High School in Queens, NY

Early in her career, Joan worked as a secretary at Kollsman Instrument Corp., Queens, NY, where she proudly received an award for her exceptional shorthand skills. Her greatest joy came when she became a mother, she chose to devote herself fully to her home and family — a role she embraced with love, pride, and unwavering dedication.

Joan was a longtime member of the Congregational Church in Amherst, NH, Eastern Star Puritan Chapter No. 29, and an active member of the local Red Hat Society. She had a gift for finding joy in the simple things — whether it was discovering a great bargain at a yard sale, baking something delicious in the kitchen (with plenty of butter and Hellman's mayonnaise nearby), or sharing coffee and laughter with those she loved.

She was known for her warm hugs, quick wit, and the kind of humor that made everyone feel at ease. Joan loved dancing, sewing, cooking, and puzzles, and she carried a lighthearted perspective on life, often reminding others, "There's never a mistake when cooking — it's just a new recipe."

Above all, Joan was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Her family was the center of her world, and she created a home filled with warmth, comfort, and unconditional love.

She was predeceased by her beloved daughter, Denise Dunn of Amherst, NH, and her brother, Robert Meisler of Memphis, TN.

Joan is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, William Dunn III of Amherst, NH; a brother, Benjamin Meisler and his wife, Linda, of Memphis, TN. Her children, Deanna Cordts and her husband Jeffrey of Amherst, NH and William Dunn IV and his wife Rebecca of Nelson, NH.

She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren: Brittany Persaud (her husband Danny) of Tampa, Florida, Lauren Todd (her husband Matt) of Amherst, NH, Taylor Rodgers (her husband Tyler) of Lyndeborough, NH, Seth Cordts (his girlfriend Syndey Jones) of Oakland, CA, and William Dunn V (a.k.a. Liam) and Lucas Dunn of Nelson, NH. Her legacy continues through her adored great-grandchildren: Danika, Dax, and Dashel Persaud of Tampa, FL; Lina, Parker, and Spencer Todd of Amherst, NH; and Tatum and Teagan Rodgers of Lyndeborough, NH. She also leaves a niece, Stacey Diller from Nashville, TN and 2 nephews, Michael Dunn of Smithtown, NY and James Dunn of Lutz, FL.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Denise Dunn Scholarship Fund. c/o Deanna Cordts, 21 Blueberry Hill Rd., Amherst, NH 03031.

Joan's kindness, humor, and deep love for her family will be remembered always — in every shared recipe, every warm embrace, and every moment of laughter she inspired.