

Introductory Remarks And Call To worship: B. Graybill

We meet today as a congregation of friends to worship, give praise to our Heavenly Father, and to remember a dear departed friend of ours. Although we cannot help but feel somewhat sad on this occasion, I know that Gene Closson would want us to give praise and rejoice in the convictions we have of our belief in a loving and eternal God.

In our worship today we desire to remember and pay tribute to a life well lived. The life of Gene Closson lives on in so many ways because of what he stood for and because he reached out to minister to people. Gene's primary purpose in life as well as in death was to serve people. with this purpose in mind and by his request his body has been donated to medical science so that others may benefit.

The family has established the E.E. Closson Memorial Fund at Graceland College. Money for this fund is to be donated by friends of this teacher, counselor, and educator. The memorial fund is designated to be used as a scholarship fund for a new student coming to Graceland. O how often this has happened in the past where Gene Closson has helped a new student coming to Graceland. And so, even in death this man lives on as service to others continues in these ways.

Death was not something that Gene Closson feared. His was a steadfast faith in an eternal and everlasting God. Death to him was a natural part of life.

I have selected a scripture and a poem to read as our call to worship. These are words that I think Gene would like to express to us if he was here today.
Romans 8: 35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Yes, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The life of Gene Closson to me was a life of daily praise. In living or dying the love of Christ was his.

Read poem- The Daily Praise