

In Loving Memory Of



ZOE EMILY BODDEN

25th MARCH 1937 – 11th OCTOBER 2024

Elmslie Memorial United Church
George Town, Grand Cayman
2nd NOVEMBER 2024
10:00 am

Officiating Minister
REV. L. CHRISTOPHER MASON

Organist
MS. CATHY GOMEZ

Pianist
MR. ANTONIO SANCHEZ

Interment at the Prospect Cemetery

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Opening Remarks Rev. L. Christopher Mason

Opening Hymn..... Amazing Grace

Prayer Rev. L. Christopher Mason

Scripture Reading - John 14: 1-3; Thessalonians 4: 13-14 Mrs. Bronwyn Arch

Special Item Elmslie Choir

Tribute Elmslie Memorial Church Mr. William Walmsley

Eulogy Mr. Michael Bowerman

Special Item - Through It All Mrs. Lisa Scott & Miss Karen Ryan

Message Rev. L. Christopher Mason

Prayer for the family Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield

Hymn Precious Lord Take My Hand

Benediction

Recessional

USHERETTES:

Alex O'Neil
Francilla Myles
Barbara Bodden

USHER:

Rodney Webb

GUEST BOOK ATTENDANT:

Harriet Vassell

PALLBEARERS:

David Arch, Jr.
Joshua Parsons
Thomas Myles

Jamalleo Ramoon
Dion Bodden
Dwight Williams

Service Hymns

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come,
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near
When my life is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When the darkness appears and the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand
Guide my feet, hold my hand
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, Lord I'm worn
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

EULOGY

Zoe Emily Bodden was born on March 25, 1937 to William Wallace and Gertrude Laurie Bodden (nee Panton). Zoe was the first child and eldest daughter.

DoDo, as she was affectionately known by her many nieces, nephews and friends, attended the Cayman Islands High School. Upon her last year in school, she became very ill and had to be taken to Miami where she was diagnosed as having thyroid disease. She had to be treated for nine months drinking milk with iodine before the doctors could operate. She recovered after a few months and returned home. Her first job was with Lacsa/Cayman Brac Airlines as it was known back in the 1960's. She loved this job working along with Norman Bodden, OBE, Errol Bush and Celia Ruddy. In those days, many of our men of all ages were seamen for National Bulk Carriers. Her brother, Churchill, and her brother-in-laws David and Ulric along with many more took to the seas for a living. Zoe went to work very early at 4:30 a.m. to check-in the men who would be leaving that morning.

After working for Lacsa/Cayman Brac Airways, she then wanted to study for the position of air traffic controller. She was sent by the Civil Aviation Authority to Trinidad and after finishing her studies, she returned home to her new job as an air traffic controller. This job became her life as she enjoyed it so much. Zoe also had flying lessons with Don Armstrong and her mother and Bess watched her fly the cesna plane solo. They were so proud of her. Zoe was a member of the Elmslie Memorial Church and serving the LORD was her passion. She was active in every way in the Church as a Choir member, organist and pianist. Most of all, she loved being involved with and spending time with the youth in the church. Not being married or having a family of her own, Zoe was able to concentrate on church work. She would travel to Haiti along with other church members doing missionary work. She surely had a lot of stories to tell.

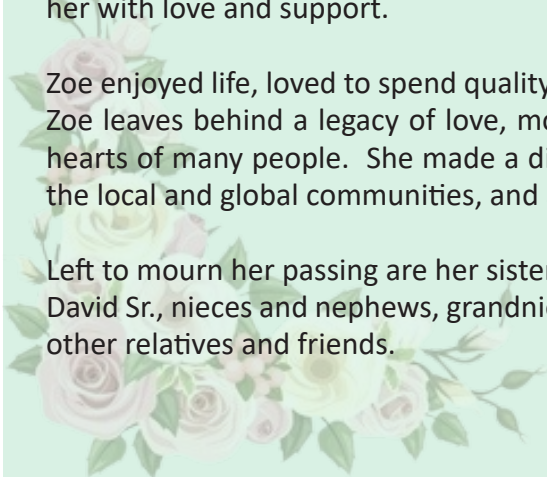
Even though Zoe did not have children of her own, she was the best auntie to her nieces and nephews. She would take them to Hog Sty Bay or the seven mile beach in the afternoons. They all loved her and she treasured her time with them. She watched them all grow up, get married and welcomed her little grandnieces and grandnephews into the family.

Zoe loved visiting family at night before bedtime. Her favorite visit was when she would come and let her nieces and nephews know that she had to security check the airport runway for animals as a flight was arriving soon. They would hop into her vehicle and off she went with the children. Zoe dearly loved her grandnieces and grandnephews so much and attended every birthday party and family event.

Zoe became ill in 2016 with multiple blood clots in her lungs and had to have a serious operation at Health City. With her Faith in GOD, she survived the operation as the Doctor said she had a 50:50 chance of survival. She recovered very quickly and was soon on the road again continuing her Church work. However, in 2017, she became very ill again with another serious medical issue. Unfortunately, her health began to deteriorate until her passing on Friday October 11, 2024. Zoe's caregivers, Minerva and Candy, were always by her side providing her with love and support.

Zoe enjoyed life, loved to spend quality time with her family and friends, enjoyed traveling and served the Lord. Zoe leaves behind a legacy of love, moral character, and dedication to the Church. She touched the lives and hearts of many people. She made a difference through her generosity, her kindness to others, contributing to the local and global communities, and always offering a prayer.

Left to mourn her passing are her sister Bess, brother Ernie, sisters-in-law Diana and Sandra, brother-in-law David Sr., nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, great grandniece, Minerva, Candy, and a host of other relatives and friends.



Tributes

A Tribute to my dearly departed sister Zoe

It is with deep sadness that I write this tribute to my sister Zoe who left us on October 11, 2024, 10 weeks and 5 days after my other sister Kathryn (Kay) Coe passed away.

DoDo, as we all called her, was the most generous, loving and devoted person anyone could have as a sister. She was 7 years older than me and she use to keep an eye on me all the time as she said I was the facety one.

As the years passed by and we were all growing up, I got married and moved to Baltimore, Maryland. Upon my return in 1966 with our son David Jr., Zoe was thrilled she had a baby to play with. David was only 8 months old, and since her could not pronounce her name, he called her "DoDo" and that name stuck with her forever.

Zoe was so helpful to me. She would baby-sit whenever I needed her and she was always willing to take my and Ernie's children to the beach some afternoons. Zoe was always so happy when birthdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas came around as she was surrounded by her nieces and nephews.

Zoe involved me with helping her play the music for weddings. She played the organ and I played the piano. We were popular musicians in those days playing the music with Lisa and Karen who sang at weddings.

I will always remember the goodness, the love and affection you showed my children and grandchildren. They all loved and respected you. My dearest sister, I will always love and miss you. It is very hard for me to accept that both you and Kay have left us within weeks of each other. Our home is now empty and void. This has been difficult for me, but I know you are where you want to be as you loved our Lord & Savior and lived your life for Him.

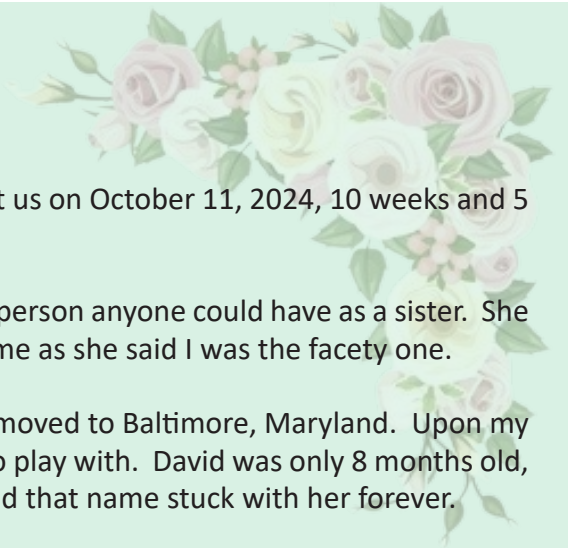
It feels surreal to me to not visit you anymore and see you in so much pain. No more trips to Health City or taking you and Kay for a car drive. This has been a significant change in my life, difficult, challenging, emotional experience losing my two sisters weeks apart.

A special thank you and gratitude to Minerva and Candy, her caregivers, for their dedication, comforting care, attention and support you showed to Zoe. Your patience, presence, and willingness to do many things for Zoe are invaluable and deeply appreciated.

Thank you, Jasmine, for the dedicated hospice and palliative care to Zoe.

I have wonderful memories of you and will cherish them forever. Rest in peace my DoDo until we meet again. You are now with Mom, Dad, Churchill, and Kay. I will always love you!

"Your baby sister" as you called me, Bess.



A Tribute to Our Dearly Departed Zoe / Do Do

Having to write a tribute in memory of Zoe has proven to be most difficult. Not being married and with no children of her own, it afforded her the time to keep in contact with us in all aspects of our lives.

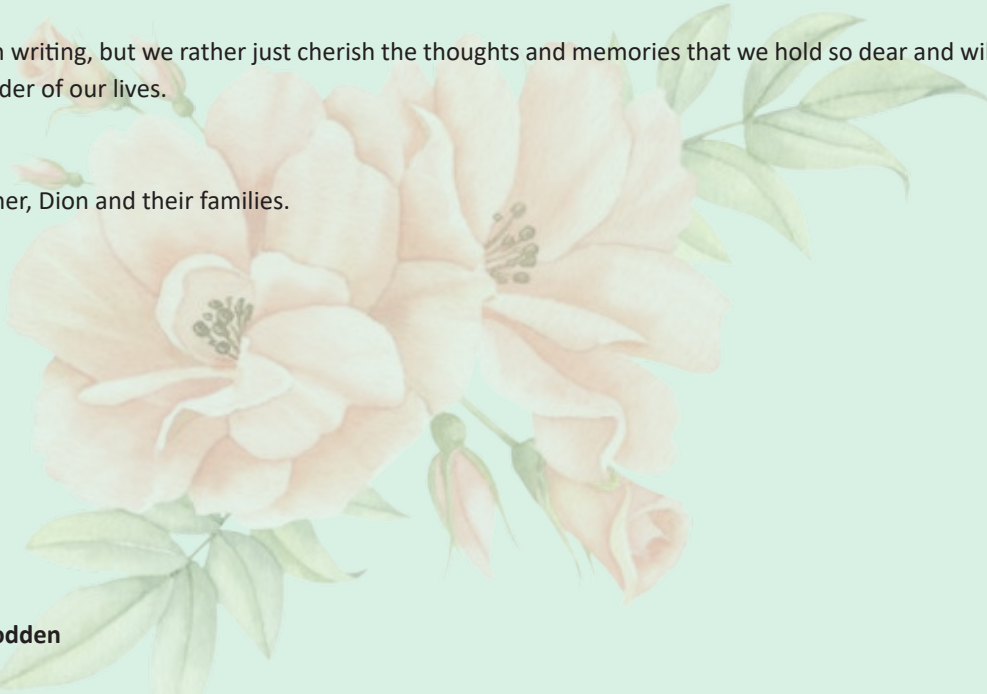
The devout Christian that she was, church was always first and foremost in our conversations particularly in the latter years of her life. Whenever we visited or called, our well-being would be her major concern.

Though we have so many fond memories of her over the years, it was the latter part of her life that we will remember most, particularly during the many trips that we had to Health City that afforded us the opportunity to reminisce of the times we spent together and how fortunate we were to have her in our lives.

It was difficult to watch her gradually slip away as she was the person that we thought would always be there for us. On her passing we obviously feel a void in our lives that no other can fill and wonder just how our lives will be without her. However, being confident that she's with our Savior leaves us with the peace of mind that she's now resting comfortably and looking down on us with that watchful eye.

We could go on and on writing, but we rather just cherish the thoughts and memories that we hold so dear and will no doubt miss her terribly for the remainder of our lives.

With all our love
Ernie, Diana, Christopher, Dion and their families.



Tribute to Miss Zoe Bodden

I thank God the day I met Miss Zoe. I have been working with this family since 2005. I took care of their mother until she passed away. Then I stayed on with Miss Zoe because she starting having medial issues.

In 2016, she had a serious medical issue that required surgical intervention. I was there, right by her side. In 2017, she had another serious medical issue. Since then, her health started to deteriorate.

Miss Zoe was a good woman, loving and always caring for others. She became to me like a mother. I never left her side, not one day, all the way with her in good times and bad times.

She was always willing to help people. She loved to organize events, and everyone that had the opportunity to meet this wonderful and special lady, loved her. It was always a joy to be around her.

When Miss Zoe became very sick, Candy and I were always by her side, day and night. We love her with all our hearts. We will miss her but ever forget her. R.I.P.

Minerva and Candy

Tribute from David, Roger, Lisa, Lana, Lori and their families

We – David, Roger, Lisa, Lana and Lori - honour and celebrate the life of our beloved aunt, Aunt Zoe, affectionately nicknamed “Do-Do.” It is with heavy hearts and a deep sense of gratitude that we share our collective memories and pay tribute to an extraordinary woman who touched the lives of so many. Aunt Zoe was more than just a family member; she was a guiding light, a source of inspiration, and a beacon of love and generosity.

From our earliest memories, Aunt Zoe has been a constant presence in our lives. The many trips to the beach, impromptu visits to gather us for runs for ice cream, picking grapes, or showing up with treats, her warmth, kindness, and infectious laughter were ever-present, and her love knew no bounds. She had an incredible ability to make all her nieces and nephews around her feel special and valued. Whether it was through her thoughtful words, her gentle touch, or her endless acts of kindness, Aunt Zoe made a lasting impact on all of us.

One of the things we admired most about Aunt Zoe was her boundless generosity. She had a heart of gold, a heart that knew no limits when it came to giving. Aunt Zoe was the kind of person who would go out of her way to lend a hand, offer comfort, or simply be there to listen. Her selflessness and compassion were evident in everything she did. Whether it was volunteering at church and local charities, supporting her friends and family, or even offering a comforting word to anyone in need, Aunt Zoe lived a life dedicated to God, and in turn, dedicated to making the world a better place.

Growing up with Aunt Zoe was a gift. She was always full of wisdom, kindness, and an unconditional love to nurture. From our childhood adventures to our more mature conversations as adults, Aunt Zoe always knew how to make life meaningful and joyous. Her sense of humour was one of her most endearing qualities, and her ability to make us laugh even in the toughest times is something we will forever cherish.

Aunt Zoe was also a person of remarkable strength and resilience. Throughout her life, she faced numerous challenges, but she always approached them with courage and determination. Her strength was a source of inspiration to all who knew her. No matter the obstacle, Aunt Zoe never gave up. She taught us the importance of resilience, perseverance, and maintaining a positive outlook even in the darkest times. She was deeply spiritual and God fearing, and on many occasions would remind us that our greatest comforts come through Him.

In addition to her generosity and strength, Aunt Zoe was a true lover of life. She approached each day with a sense of wonder and joy, embracing every moment and finding beauty in the simplest things. Her Christian values shone through in her passion to love, and we could always sense her appreciation of being blessed with her nieces and nephews. Aunt Zoe taught us all the importance of living life to the fullest.

One of our favourite memories of Aunt Zoe is the opening of gifts at Christmas. In hindsight, it was a time when we could appreciate her joy of making us happy, and it perfectly encapsulates who she was. Her kind heart made those moments unforgettable, and it is a memory we will cherish forever. Aunt Zoe had a way of turning ordinary moments into extraordinary ones, and her presence brought joy to everyone around her.

As we, David, Roger, Lisa, Lana, and Lori reminisce, we will remember the many ways Aunt Zoe enriched our lives. Her legacy is one of love, generosity, and unwavering strength. Aunt Zoe taught us the importance of living with purpose, of being there for our loved ones, and of always striving to make a positive impact. Her influence on our lives is immeasurable, and her memory will forever be a part of us.

To our extended family, we offer our deepest condolences. Thank you for sharing Aunt Zoe with us and for being a part of her incredible journey. Your love and support have been a cornerstone of her life, and we are forever grateful for the beautiful moments we have shared together.

As we move forward, we will honour Aunt Zoe’s memory by continuing to live our lives with the same generosity, strength, and joy that she did. We will strive to be compassionate, supportive, and dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others. May we find comfort in the knowledge that Aunt Zoe’s spirit will live on through the memories we cherish and the love we hold in our hearts. It’s difficult to realise that she left us.

We’d like to say, rest in peace, dear Do-Do. Your legacy will forever be etched in our hearts, and your spirit will continue to inspire and guide us. Thank you for the countless memories, the endless love, and the unwavering support. You are loved and cherished beyond measure.

We know you have gone to a place where you lived your life to be and you earned it. Rest peacefully in the arms of Jesus, and we can only hope that one day we will meet again to embrace and to say – “Thank you for your love.”

David, Roger, Lisa, Lana, Lori, and their families.

Tribute from Elmslie Memorial Church

Those asked to say what Zoe – or “Miss Zoe” to many - had meant to them, or what qualities they saw in her, were consistent. She was a beautiful lady, inside and out, humble, gentle and kind, a friend to everyone and someone who loved the Lord, someone who reached out to people and listened, and believed that the church should do things well. She was, as someone said, “a special lady”.

Zoe had been part of the Elmslie Memorial United Church from her beginning, with many in her family involved in its life and ministry. She became a member at age 13 and became involved, but it wasn't until she was in her mid-30s that she had a personal encounter with God – when she became a Christian. It happened at a crusade meeting in 1973. Ministries in Action under the leadership of Walford Thompson was conducting a series of evangelistic meetings throughout the island and an Irish evangelist, Jim Waring, was the speaker at the West Bay United Church. He gave an invitation but, she admitted at the time, she wouldn't go forward. However, God was speaking to her so strongly that she grabbed the hand of a friend and they went to the back after the service to speak to the preacher.

This was to be a turning point for Zoe. She became a Sunday school teacher and youth leader – in those days of Christian Endeavour. One current leader in the church says that Zoe was one of the biggest influences on his early Christian life, and others have simply said that she was a spiritual mentor to them. She had a special gift for working among teenagers.

Zoe always liked music and sang in the choir but was better known for being the organist for the church. Often, she would play the organ together with a number of others on the piano. She also helped with the children's choir when it was formed and would faithfully turn up to each practice.

From its inception in 1974, Zoe was involved with the Cayman Keswick Convention, serving for many years as its secretary and, again, often playing the organ in tandem with a pianist.

When the church started its mission trips in the 80s, she was one of the first to go along. She went on several Youth with a Mission trips to Mexico and then, when the adult trips to Haiti started, she went on a number of those, too.

Zoe was very involved in the early days of the Happy Seniors ministry and, in more recent days, she took charge of the In His Steps programme which visited primarily shut-ins. She both organized it and, of course, ensured that she had her keyboard to lead the singing. She also took responsibility for the Pantry Ministry each Wednesday for a period of time. She saw this as more than just handing out bags of groceries, she said at the time, but as a ministry. She said that she began to pray for each person who would come. She indicated that she felt strongly with regard to the church's ministry that it needed to meet the needs of so many hurting people, their practical needs as well as their spiritual ones.

Zoe was committed to her church, her ministries and, most of all, to her Lord. Her life has been a blessing to so many, young and old, over the years. She is someone who will be sorely missed because of both the influence she has had and because of her gentle, kind, caring nature. We are grateful to God for “Miss Zoe.”

A Letter to Miss Zoe

There is so much to say about you Miss Zoe, but what must be mentioned foremost is your faith and love of God. Your life was lived in service of Jesus and His Word. You didn't only preach it, you lived it.

Your constant prayer for others, and your selfless assistance of people in need was astounding. Always calling to check on those under stress of illness, loss and in need of financial assistance. You did not only pray for family, friends and strangers, you acted on your faith. Your advice and your willingness to become personally involved in our lives was a blessing that will never be forgotten.

You knew that my mother and I held you as our precious friend. I want to thank you for the love and care you showed to me and to my mother as her friend and confidant. The Christian counsel you offered was a true comfort to both of us, and made a real difference in our faith and hope. Touching one, you touched many.

Mom and I were so grateful for the time spent with you, Miss Kay and Miss Minerva on medical trips to Miami, and visits to Orlando. Those days were full of fun, and made lovely memories for all of us.

With love, may your soul rest in God's Loving Arms, keeping you safe and at peace until we are reunited through Him.

To devoted nurse, Minerva, and caregivers, Candy, Leticia and Ester, God bless you for your many years of love and gentle care of Miss Zoe & Miss Kay.

To the precious family of Miss Zoe and Miss Kay; it has been a heartbreaking loss of two dear sisters who stood as family matriarchs in love and support of all of you. No one can imagine the deep sadness and grief you feel. Our prayers are for you and your extended families and the church families they loved. May God comfort and keep you in the difficult days to come.

Friend: Karen McKee, and on behalf of Janet Gay McKee & Our Family

Tribute from The Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands (CAACI)

Tribute to a Pioneer in Aviation

As we celebrate and give thanks for the life of Zoe Emily Bodden, we also celebrate the remarkable career of a true trailblazer in the Cayman Islands aviation industry. With over 40 years of dedicated service, she has not only shaped the path for future generations but also inspired countless individuals, especially women, to pursue their dreams in aviation.

Beginning her journey in 1966 as an airline ticket agent, she laid the foundation for a career that would break barriers and redefine possibilities. Having received training in Trinidad and Jamaica, Zoe became the first female air traffic controller in the Cayman Islands, navigating uncharted territory and proving that determination and skill know no gender. Her passion for aviation extended to her own pursuit of flying training to complement her air traffic control career, demonstrating that learning is a lifelong journey. Her leadership as an air traffic control supervisor and appointment to Airport Manager showcased her commitment to excellence, fostering an environment where others could thrive.

Beyond her professional achievements, Zoe has been a mentor, guiding the next generation of aviators, including the current Director-General of Civil Aviation, with wisdom, humility and grace.

Her legacy is one of courage and perseverance, inspiring women to take their place in a traditionally male-dominated field. We honor not just her accomplishments, but the countless lives she has touched along the way. We thank her for her service and for blazing a trail that many will follow. Her impact on aviation will be felt for generations to come.

May her soul rest in everlasting peace.





Graveside Service

Sentences	Rev. L. Christopher Mason
Hymn	Because He Lives
Committal	Rev Mason
Prayer	Rev Mason
Hymns	I'll Fly Away and How Great Thou Art
Benediction	Rev Mason

Because He Lives

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He bled and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives.

Refrain: Because He lives; I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives; All fear is gone
Because I know, I know, He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy He gives,
But greater still that calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain,
And then as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.

I'll Fly Away

Some bright morning when this life is over
I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away

I'll fly away oh glory
I'll fly away (in the morning)
When I die hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone
I'll fly away
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly
I'll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joys will never end
I'll fly away

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder,
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joys shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

THANK YOU

Bess, Ernie and all of Zoe's family would like to thank Elmslie Memorial Church, countless friends, and many others who have reached out during this difficult time to offer prayers, express words of love and comfort and bless us with heartfelt, inspiring tributes and stories about our beautiful Sister, Aunt and Grandaunt.