

IN LOVING



MEMORY



*Kurt Richard Berens*

*June 21, 1952 – June 23, 2023*

## A Service of Witness to the Resurrection

In Loving and Grateful Memory of

***Kurt Richard Berens***

*June 21, 1952 – June 23, 2023*

July 9, 2023

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

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*Welcome to Oak Grove Church. In the front and back rows,  
hymnals are found under your chairs.*

**Prelude**

Judy Cooper

**\*Procession**

“Here I Am, Lord”

69

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises  
to God’s Holy Name,

**All: To declare our steadfast love in the morning  
and our faithfulness by night, to sing God’s  
praise to the music of the organ and harp.**

One: For it is God who has made us, and it is God  
who lifts us up,

**All: When our strength and power are no longer with  
us, and our spirits are worn down, then we lift  
our voice again to sing of God’s steadfast love.**

One: Lift up your spirits, and raise your voices in praise!

**All: For we come to celebrate life and God’s good  
gifts, to remember those who journeyed with  
us, and the loving God who keeps us and  
walks with us. Let us worship God!**

## **\*Unison Prayer**

**O Lord our God,**

**We come before your gracious presence to mourn our loss, to receive comfort from your word and from one another, to contemplate our own mortality, to turn our hearts toward you.**

**Impress upon us in this hour that this world is not the end that satisfies our spirits, but a place of pilgrimage in which you have set us.**

**And so, amid the changes and fragility of this life, grant that our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** "How Great Thou Art" 625

**Scripture** Ecclesiastes 3:1–4, Revelation 21: 3–5

**Homily & Remembrances** Rev. Mary Koon

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** "Hymn of Promise" 250

## **\*Commendation & Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## **Kurt Richard Berens**

Kurt was born in Minneapolis to Richard and JoAnn Berens and died June 23, 2023, at the age of 71, after a short battle with cancer.

He is preceded in death by his parents and survived by his siblings – Vickie Apel; his twin Marikay Wolf (Mike); Jim (Joyce); Tony; David (Norma); Joany Peterson (Marty), Katie Roth; and Maggie Cedotal (Kelly Weber); 13 nieces/nephews, 16 grandnieces/nephews; many cousins, friends and loving staff members at his group home, Chicago Place, (Nate O, Nate K, Mike, Paul, Melissa, Mahdi) all of whom are Kurt's family.

Kurt was a very friendly guy who loved meeting new people. When you met him, you were his friend for life. You couldn't help being taken in by his enthusiasm, smile, playfulness, and twinkle in his eye!

He loved spending time with family and friends; traveling, especially if that involved an airplane ride; and going to concerts and movies, (Rocky and Batman in particular). He loved going out to eat – if you ever added McDonalds as an option, you knew where you were going! And he loved attending sporting events, especially Twins games and Gopher Hockey. Kurt was active in ARLE bowling and softball leagues over the years, enjoying not only the activity, but the company of friends and volunteers. For 33 years he participated in programs offered by Opportunity Partners, and especially enjoyed jobs that allowed him to work in the community. His favorite activity was going to True Friends Camp every summer. He talked about it all year long and made sure at the end of each camp session that he would be going again next year. Simply put, Kurt loved adventure and was always up for something new!

Throughout his life, Kurt has been surrounded by a caring and loving group of people. As he grew up, this supportive community grew with him. This combination of family, friends and community members all were so important in making sure Kurt had a full, well-lived life.

