

# A JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF LIFE



**DEBORAH ANN CHEN**

January 19, 1958 - June 5, 2021

**Saturday, June 26, 2021**

Gathering 9:30am - 10:00am Memorial Service 10:00am

**New Hope Church**

6201 SW 160th Ave (Dykes Road)

Southwest Ranches, Florida 33331

# Order of Service

## Prelude

“Scars in Heaven”

Casting Crowns

“It is Well”

Steve Higgins

## Congregational Opening Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

Steve Higgins/

Congregation

Oh 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 Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior 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 see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

## Refrain

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

## Refrain

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

## Refrain

### Welcome

Greeting/Opening Prayer  
Introduction of Visiting Pastor

Pastor Matt Larson

### Message

Message of Hope

Pastor Clyde Bailey

### Worship Song

“I Will Rise”

Steve Higgins

### Tribute by Brian Chen

### Scripture Readings

Lamentations 3: 17-26  
John 14: 1-6

George Shim

### Reflection Song

“You Raise Me Up”

Steve Higgins

### Tribute by Michelle Sponder

## Worship Song

“Falling in Love with Jesus”

Steve Higgins

## Closing

Message of Encouragement

Pastor Matt Larson

“The Holy City”

Steve Higgins

Dismissal Prayer

Pastor Matt Larson

## Jamaican Celebration Song

“Enter Into Jerusalem”

Steve Higgins/  
Congregation

Enter into Jerusalem, let us go to God's house  
With the healthy and the sick, with the worker and the weak  
Let us go to God's house.

Enter into Jerusalem, let us go to God's house  
Come and run with the wind and the God who reigns in peace  
Let us go to God's house.

## Refrain

We go celebrate, we go celebrate, we go celebrate, Oh, Israel!  
Praise the name of the Lord on high, praise His name in song,  
Praise the Lord with a heav'nly song, with a heav'nly song, with a  
heav'nly song, praise the Lord.

Enter into Jerusalem, mek we walk go down there,  
With the young and the old, with the little and the large  
Mek we walk go down there.

Enter into Jerusalem, mek we walk go down there,  
Swaying to the breeze with the God who reigns in peace,  
Mek we walk go down there.

# Refrain

Enter into Jerusalem, let us go to God's house  
With your papa and your mama, with your uncle and your aunt,  
Let us go to God's house.

Enter into Jerusalem, let us go to God's house  
Run and catch the breeze with the God who reigns in peace,  
Let us go to God's house.

# Refrain


## Repast Please Join Us





The family of Deborah Ann Chen wishes to express their deepest gratitude to our relatives, friends, neighbors, and colleagues, for all the prayers, words of comfort, visits, and acts of kindness that have been extended to us during this challenging time. A special word of thanks to the VITAS nurses who cared for Debbie with such compassion and respect for her and the family. We pray that the good Lord returns abundant blessings upon each of you and your families this day and forever.

If you would like to honor Debbie's life and recognize her valiant fight with cancer, please consider making a donation to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research at [rememberingdebbie.com](http://rememberingdebbie.com)



“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants”

Psalm 116:15

## Here and Now

Henri J. M. Nouwen

How, then, do we prepare ourselves for death? By living each day in the full awareness of being children of God, whose love is stronger than death. Speculations and concerns about the final days of our life are useless, but making each day into a celebration of our belovedness as sons and daughters of God will allow us to live our final days, whether short or long, as birthing days. The pains of dying are labor pains. Through them, we leave the womb of this world and are born to the fullness of children of God.

We are challenged once again to look at our lives from above. When, indeed, Jesus came to offer us full communion with God, by making us partakers of his death and resurrection, what else can we desire but to leave our mortal bodies and so reach the final goal of our existence? The only reason for staying in this valley of tears can be to continue the mission of Jesus who has sent us into the world as his Father sent him into the world. Looking from above, life is a short, often painful mission, full of occasions to do fruitful work for God's kingdom, and death is the open door that leads into the hall of celebration where the King himself will serve us.

It all seems such an upside-down way of being! But it's the way of Jesus and the way for us to follow. There is nothing morbid about it. To the contrary, it's a joyful vision of life and death. As long as we are in the body, let us care well for our bodies so that we can bring the joy and peace of God's kingdom to those we meet on our journey. But when the time has come for our dying and death, let us rejoice that we can go home and be united with the One who calls us the beloved.