

Thank You to God

for the life and witness of

**RICHARD
ALAN
CLARKE**

5 August 1951 - 13 September 2013

**St Mark's Lutheran Church,
Chesley, Ontario**

**Monday, 16 September, 2013
2.00 o'clock in the afternoon**

In Thanksgiving for the Life of
Rick Clarke
1951 – 2013

Pastor Ed welcomes everyone, and then we all stand and face the bier at the back of the church. Pr Ed says

Blessed be the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ,
Everyone **The source of all mercy and the God
of all consolation,**
Pr Darlyne Who comforts us in all our sorrows
Everyone **So that we can comfort others in
their sorrows with the consolation
we ourselves have received from
God.**

*Rick's casket is covered with the Pall, symbol of his clothing with Christ in baptism.
Then Pr Ed blesses Rick's body with the sign of the cross, as Pr Darlyne prays*

All who are baptized into Christ have
put on Christ. In his baptism,
Rick was clothed with Christ. In the
day of His coming, he shall be clothed
with glory. **Amen.**

*Led by the Paschal Candle, symbol of Christ himself, Rick's body, followed by
his family, is brought before the altar at the front of the church, and we sing*

**Blessed assurance! Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood!**

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love ...▶**

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love ...

Pastor

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation

And also with you.

Pastor

Let us pray.

We offer silent prayers for Rick and his family, after which we say together

**O God of grace and glory,
we remember this day before you
our brother Rick.
We thank you for giving him to us
to know and to love as a companion
on our earthly pilgrimage.
In your boundless compassion,
console us who mourn.
Give us faith to see in death
the gate of eternal life,
so that in quiet confidence
we may continue our course on earth,
until, by your call, we are reunited
with those who have gone before;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We now sit for the Appreciations, Scripture, and Meditation.

Appreciations

From the Wisdom of Solomon: *The Righteous Rewarded* [3.1FF]

God made us in the image of his own eternity, but death entered the world, and even those who belong to God's company must suffer. Yet the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish their departure was thought to be a disaster; but they are at peace. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. They will shine forth, and run like sparks through the stubble!

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

From Psalm 36 (*Reader reads **Refrain**, Congregation repeats it. Then Congregation reads **Refrain** as indicated*)

Your love, Lord, reaches to heaven.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the oceans; you save both man and beast, O Lord. ***Refrain*** How priceless is your love, O God! Your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings. ***Refrain*** We feast upon the abundance of your house; you give us drink from the river of your delights. ***Refrain***

From Romans: *God is For Us* [8.31, 35, 37-39]

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor high, or depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Hymn, "*Rock of Ages*"

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.**

**Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's commands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.**

From the Gospel: *The Peace of Christ*

Pr Ed: The Holy Gospel according to John.

Everyone: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. [14:27]"

Pr Ed: The Gospel of the Lord.

Everyone: Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation, by Fr Ed

Now we stand and sing

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded Love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Finish now thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be!
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee!
Changed from glory into the glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!**

The Prayers (*please remain standing*)

The Assisting Minister leads us in prayer, first saying

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

After each petition, we respond, "Amen."

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we entreat you, to your whole Church in paradise and on earth, your light and your peace. **Amen.**

Grant that **Rick** and all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death **Rick** may pass with Jesus to his own joyful resurrection. **Amen.**

Give courage and faith to **Shirley**; to **Penny and Ken**; to **Ricki, Dawn and Lance, Connie, and Lance**; to **Lila, Eleanor and Brad, Murray and Kathy, Rick's grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and all his family**; to his coworkers at **Culligan**; to his friends at **St Mark's**; and to all who are grieving his death, that we may all have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those we love. **Amen.**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially [Bill Jr, Steven, Arnold, Bruce, William and Doris](#), to have our consummation and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory, and, with blessed Mark and all your saints, to receive the crown of life which you promise to all who share in the victory of your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Amen.**

Amid our tears, Lord, we praise you, as you have received [Rick](#) to yourself for all eternity. We thank you that you have brought [him](#) to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Comfort us with the glorious hope of the resurrection and life eternal. Grant us grace to say with a believing heart, “Thy will be done,” and know that your will is a good and gracious will even now. Comfort us through your Gospel, which promises strength and help to the troubled and weary. O Lord, forsake us not in this hour; for Jesus’ sake we ask it. **Amen.**

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

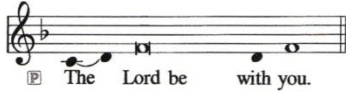
We comfort one another with signs of Christ’s peace.

During the Peace, the Altar is prepared for Communion.

*No one shall go away hungry from the Table of the Lord.
Even if you are not yet baptized, or your tradition does not yet permit,
please come forward to Pr Darlyne’s line for a blessing.*

Please remain standing for the Great Thanksgiving, following:

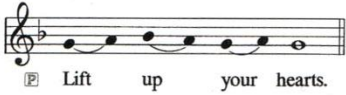
The Holy Communion



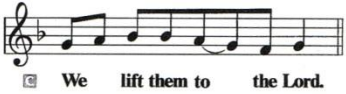
☐ The Lord be with you.



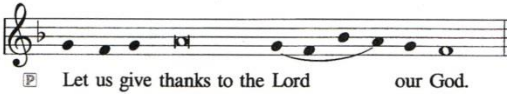
☐ And also with you.



☐ Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them to the Lord.



☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

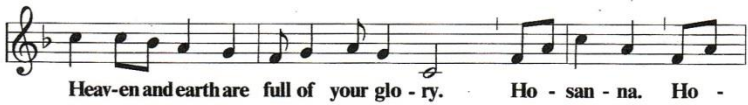


☐ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Presider continues, and leads us into the Sanctus/Benedictus:



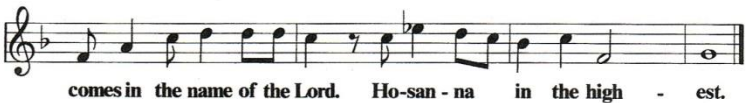
☐ Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na. Ho-



san-na. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Communion

*The family communes first,
then all who wish come forward,*

pulpit side to pulpit communion station, lectern side to lectern communion station

During communion, we sing

**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.**

*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 see 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 joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"...

Communion completed, we stand, and formally commend [Rick](#) to God who made [him](#).

We pray silently. Then we sing, starting quietly, as a prayer—

**Richard, row your boat ashore, Alleluia;
Richard, row your boat ashore, Alleluia.**

**River of Jordan black and cold, Alleluia;
Chills the body, but not the soul, Alleluia!**

**River of Jordan deep and wide, Alleluia—
Milk and honey on the other side! Alleluia!**

**Richard, row your boat ashore, Alleluia;
Richard, row your boat ashore, Alleluia.**

We now pray together▶

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, **Richard**. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive **him** into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.

Pr Ed sprinkles water on Rick's body, in token of his baptism, then says

Rest eternal grant unto **him**, O Lord.

Everyone **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

Pr Darlyne May **he** rest in peace and rise in glory.

Everyone **Amen!**

As we prepare to leave the church, we sing

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun: Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst; but Christ their legions
hath dispersed; let shouts of holy joy outburst: Alleluia!

He closed the yawning gates of hell; the bars from heaven's high
portals fell; let hymns of praise his triumphs tell! Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, from death's dread sting
thy servants free, that we may live, and sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

P Let us go forth in peace.

C **In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

Rick's body is led from the church as Pr Ed recites the Nunc Dimittis, and the ministers, the family, then the congregation, follow.

Burial and Committal take place immediately in Chesley Cemetery.

The family are honoured and glad you are here. There is a reception at Klages Mill (turn right onto main street, go north down into town and continue across the bridge, turn immediately right at the end of the bridge into the Mill parking lot). Come! Meet and greet the family!

Leaders of Worship

Presider: Fr Edward Wagner;

Assisting Ministers: Pr Darlyne Rath, Merv Blake

Pianist: Dwayne Hachman

Pallbearers

Kelly Clarke, Lance Farris,

Reg Knapp, Ted Knapp, Ivan Pegelo, Dennis Wettlaufer

Honorary Pallbearers

Members of the 2013 St Mark's Parish Council

Richard Alan Clarke

Born

Sarnia, Ontario, 5 August 1951,
to William and Doris (Liness) Clarke

*Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows,
Final Communion in This World*

Chesley Hospital, Wednesday, 11 September 2013

Married

To Shirley Knapp, 29 September 1990,
Grace United Church, Sarnia

Born Into the New Life

Chesley Hospital, 7.30am, 13 September 2013

Rick's way of being in the world was gentle and strong, leavened with impish humour. Ever the man's man, he was nevertheless unassumingly so. When he married Shirley, he immersed himself as a full member of the Knapp family, delightfully taking up his roles as adoring husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and breadwinner—he and Shirley made a fine team. His faith became very important to him, and led him to join St Mark's not because he had to, but because he chose to. His Christian faith was bedrock, and not just in his struggle with cancer. It glowed at the core of his life during the last few years, spilling over naturally from his family and friends to his customers and colleagues at Culligan. Rick fought his illness to the very end, and still died much too soon.

Cancer is a demonic visitation. But Rick overcame its evil with characteristic grace, with "Thank you's" aplenty to his beloved Shirley, and to everyone who was privileged to care for him—a *good guy*, all the way to heaven.



St Mark's Lutheran Church

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519-363-2260 • stmarkslutheran@eastlink.ca

Pastor Ed Wagner 519-794-2731 • Interim Pastor Darlyne Rath 519-483-3100

Dianne King, *Council* 519-363-3143

Ted Filsinger, *Music* • Andrew McCulloch, *Children's Christian Education*

Colleen McCulloch, *Parish Secretary* • Wyonna McCulloch, *Treasurer*

Elaine Cameron, *Financial Secretary* • Shirley Hamel, *Custodian*



WE SERVE
AND WE DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE