

A Celebration of Life



In Loving Memory of
Joanne P. Poland

March 22, 1939 – June 13, 2025

A Service In Witness to the Resurrection of
Joanne P. Poland
Saturday, September 13, 2025, 10:00 AM
Downtown United Presbyterian Church
Rochester, N.Y.

Prelude

Hymns of Our Faith
"Be Still My Soul"

Sentences of Scripture

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Gail Ricciuti

*Hymn

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry
(Music may be found on pg. 6)

WATERLIFE

Prayer

Words of Remembrance by Friends and Family

*If you would like to voice an additional remembrance,
please come forward to the lectern after Joanne's family has spoken.*

Music for Reflection

Over My Head
Alan Jones and Lee Wright

American Negro Spiritual

Readings from Scripture

Isaiah 65:17-19, 21-25
Romans 15:4-5, 7, 13-14

Meditation

Rev. Ricciuti

*Hymn

I've Got Peace Like a River

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

1. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a-my soul. (2X)
2. I've got joy like a fountain. . .
3. I've got love like an ocean. . .

Prayers of Thanksgiving

*Commendation

Rev. Ricciuti

*Hymn

Morning Has Broken
(Music may be found on pg. 7)

BUNESSAN

*Blessing (unison)

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.*

Postlude

Final, from Symphonie I

Louis Vierne

Following the conclusion of the postlude, everyone is invited to a reception in the Hallock Lounge to share memories and greet the family.

The Poland family wishes to express their deep appreciation to each of you for your presence today. Thank you also to the Deacons of Downtown United Presbyterian Church for all their kindness.



Joanne P. Poland

Joanne Priscilla Poland passed away at the age of 86 on June 13, 2025, in Rochester, New York, after a brief decline. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1939, she was the daughter of John Alexander Russell and Charlotte Rosalind (Green) Russell. Joanne grew up in Weymouth, Massachusetts, and graduated from Weymouth High in 1956. She earned a Bachelor's degree in sociology (1960) from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a Master of Divinity from Yale University (1962).

Joanne and David Poland were married in 1960 and started their family in North Branford, Connecticut, in 1963. They joined the Center Church on the Green in New Haven, Connecticut, and were active members for 10 years until they moved to Fayette, Alabama, in 1970. In the winter of 1974, they moved north and purchased their house in Pittsford, New York, where their kids grew up. At that time Joanne and David joined what became the Downtown United Presbyterian Church in Rochester. For many decades, Joanne was very active in all aspects of the life of the church. She served as a church elder and deacon and on many committees as she took on the social justice issues important to her church community. After Joanne joined the church, her talent for Christian education was recognized; she was hired to create the Resource Center for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, which served the clergy and lay leaders of the many Presbyterian churches in the region. Joanne participated in and led many conferences for the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE). In later years, she volunteered at the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) and in the Rochester City Schools. She will be remembered for her soft-spoken manner, radiant smile, and quiet and intelligent leadership.

Joanne gave endless amounts of love to her family and was always there to listen and offer sage advice. She enjoyed traveling with David and her kids. International travels were planned around meeting up with friends in other countries. In recent years, she participated in a monthly Zoom book club of friends from her old Pittsford neighborhood. She also enjoyed hosting family gatherings at home in the Brickstone Senior Community in Brighton, New York. There she also enjoyed visits with long-time

friends and getting to know new people in the community. She and David were adopted by their loving co-in-laws and extended Greek family. For more than three decades, they enjoyed shared holiday meals, parties, and religious celebrations. Though Rochester became her home, she always considered herself a New Englander at heart and yearned to be by the ocean, to hear the sound of the surf and to smell the salt air.

Joanne was predeceased by both of her parents. She is survived by her two brothers, James (Ann) Russell of Columbus, Ohio, and Thomas (Teresa) Russell of Bristol, Rhode Island; her husband of 65 years, David Poland; three children, John (Andrea) Poland of Macedon, New York; Timothy (Beth) Poland of Penfield, New York; Anne (George) Tsimboukis of Canton, Connecticut; and four grandchildren, Eva Tsimboukis of Worcester, Massachusetts, David Tsimboukis of Canton, Connecticut, Leah Poland of Chicago, Illinois, and Owen Poland of Rochester, New York. She also leaves behind her niece, Julie (David) Gregory of Villa Hills, Kentucky, and nephew, James Russell of Columbus, Ohio.



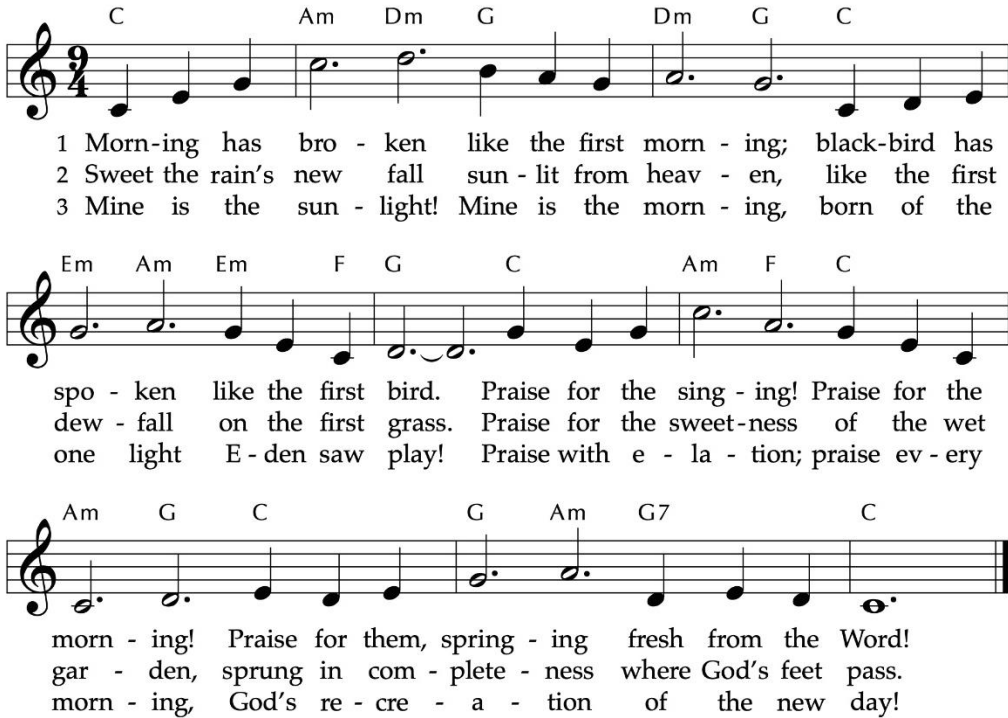
488 I Was There to Hear Your Born-ing Cry

1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid-dle a-ges of your life, not too old, no
 you are old. I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv-ing Lord to
 lon-ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-
 see your life un-fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be-long. If you find some-one to share your
 plete what I've be-gun. When the eve-ning gent-ly clos-es
 child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
 in and you shut your wea-ry eyes, I'll be there as
 light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 make your vers-es rhyme from dusk till ris-ing sun."
 I have al-ways been with just one more sur-prise."
 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.
 I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un-fold."

Originally created to accompany a video series on baptism, this hymn speaks in the imagined conversational voice of God, assuring the person being baptized of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life. It offers a reminder that baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Morning Has Broken

664



C Am Dm G Dm G C

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery

Am G C G Am G7 C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

This 20th-century text was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of “new” and “first,” each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931, alt.
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Beverly A. Howard, 2012
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 Music Arr. © 2012 Beverly A. Howard

BUNESSAN
 5.5.5.4.D



Celebrants

The Rev. Gail Ricciuti, officiant
Alan Jones and Lee Wright, musicians

