

## REFLECTIONS

Funerals are a time for each of us to consider our standing before the Holy God of all creation. He reveals Himself in the Scriptures as unapproachable by anything other than faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. It is not through trying to be a good enough person, but through the unmerited favor God demonstrates on the cross of Jesus Christ. Please allow me to share with you three important words to better understand the faith that Jerri had in Jesus as her Savior and Lord. They are repent, believe, and identify.

**Repent.** This means first of all to stop and to turn from all the various ways we disobey God and to start obeying Him instead. God has made Himself evident to all people even though we suppress that knowledge, but if we want to know Him as He truly is, the Bible shows us how to live in obedience to His holy calling.

**Believe.** Jesus calls us to stop believing that we can save ourselves or that any other thing can save us. He tells us to trust that He is the only way to God the Father. To believe *in* Christ is more than just believing that He was born; it's trusting Him to the exclusion of all else. What this baby King was born to do was to live the perfect life of obedience we fail to live and then die as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. His death on the cross paid the penalty for our rebellion and His resurrection from the dead on Easter morning declared that His sacrifice was accepted by God the Father. To believe in Jesus is to trust His life, death, and resurrection to the exclusion of all else.

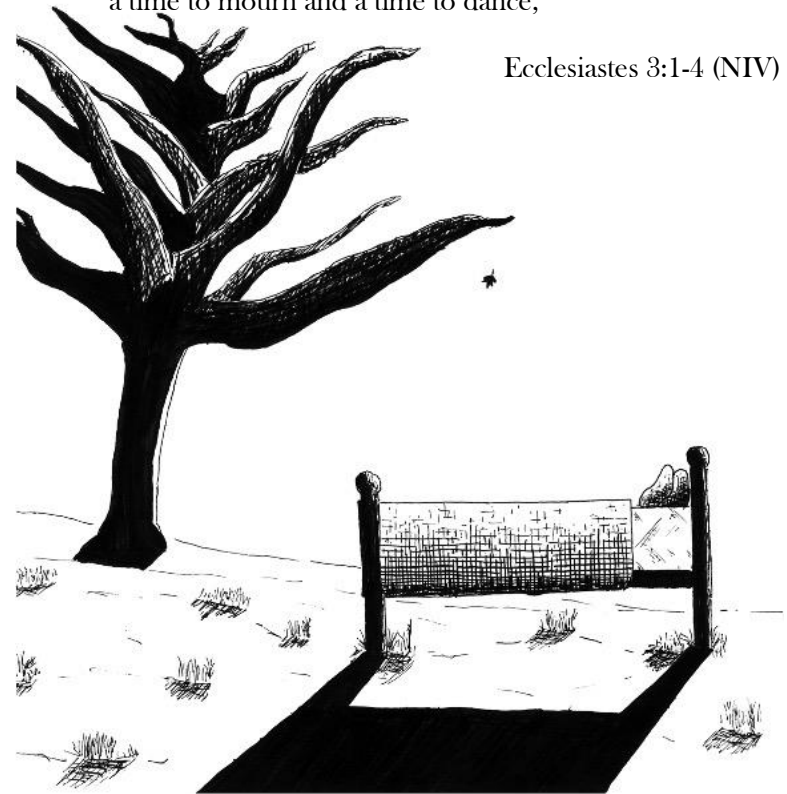
**Identify.** Jesus doesn't just save us as individuals; He saves us *into* His family. He adopts His followers as brothers and sisters. The practice of holy baptism is the historic way that the Bible requires to identify with this family of God. If you have never been baptized, then you should confirm your belief in Christ by being baptized into the membership of a Bible-believing church. If you have already been baptized, then you should profess your faith in Christ and be joined officially as a member.

If you would like to know more about his kind of personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, please contact me, Doug Warren, and I would love to talk with you more. *You can reach me on my cell phone at (802) 299-1623.*

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”  
—Romans 8:38-39

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 (NIV)



*Art by Jerri's Grandson, Cole Cochran*

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JERRI COLBY COLE  
December 11, 1955-September 8, 2023

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OCTOBER 8, 2023  
3:00 PM

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# CELEBRATION OF GOD'S PROMISES TO JERRI

**Organ Prelude**

**Welcome** Carl Hurd

**Prelude**

**Opening Prayer** Carl Hurd

**Hymnal #358** *For All the Saints* Congregation

**Panhandler Steel Drum Band** Jen Cohen, Director

*Theme from Chariots of Fire  
Blessed Assurance*

**Hymnal #693** *Blessed Assurance* Congregation

**Scripture Reading** Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 Cole Cochrane

**The Vermont Song** Congregation

*These green hills and silver waters, Are my home—they belong to me.  
And to all her sons and daughters, May they be strong and forever free.  
Let us live to protect her beauty, And look with pride on the golden dome.  
They say home is where the heart is, These green mountains are my home.  
These green mountains are my home.*

Voice: Christine Morton, Guitar: Jonathan Denham

**Special Music** *Just Be Held* Rorie Cochrane

**Hymnal (inside back)** *Give Praise to God* Congregation

**Message** Jerri's Inheritance Keith Tallon  
Psalm 23

**Song #600** *He Leadeth Me* Congregation

**Benediction** Pastor Doug Warren

**Postlude** *To God Be the Glory* Hymnal #55

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~  
~~ French Horn: Anne Denham ~~

*Please join the family in the Billings Room and outside  
for refreshments after the service.*

# REMEMBERING

Jerri C. Cole of Barnard and Woodstock, Vermont, died on September 8, 2023 at the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative & Hospice Care after a short period of declining health due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

She was born Jerri Anne Colby, daughter of Evan and Jeannine Colby of Woodstock, Vermont and grew up farming alongside her father and three older sisters (Janice Rogers, Joanne Logan, and June Meek) at the King Farm. Jerri attended elementary through high school in Woodstock and graduated from WUHS in 1973. She attended Post Junior College, obtaining an associate's degree in recreation leadership. She was employed as a classroom paraprofessional by the Barnard School District for 26 years, sharing her love of music and recreation with her students.

Jerri married the dork of her dreams, Andrew Cole, also of Woodstock, on 7/10/1976. Together, they raised two children, Matthew (Kristina) Cole of Woodstock, NH and Leah (Chad) Cochrane of Bow, NH. She has three beloved grandchildren, Rorie (19), Cole (16), and Sawyer (10) Cochrane.

Music was always Jerri's passion and she was a lifelong musician, with the gift of being able to learn nearly any instrument. Most recently, she was a member of the Panhandlers Steel Drum Band, with her final performance as part of the Woodstock Alumni Day parade for her 50th high school reunion.

Jerri was very grounded in her faith and was a member of First Congregational Church of Woodstock for over 50 years. Through the years, Jerri was very active in serving as a Sunday school teacher, Awana leader, high school youth group leader, and member of the flower, library, and music committees.

Jerri enjoyed traveling and camping with her family. As her children grew up, she and Andy completed several biking journeys around Vermont and Prince Edward Island. She will be remembered as always supporting and uplifting those around her, from helping Andy run several businesses, to caretaking for her parents' property for many years. She particularly loved playing games, eating ice cream for dinner, reading, almond croissants, weed-whacking, growing plants, and taking family photographs.

She was preceded in death by her father, Evan E. Colby.

“And when my task on earth is done  
When, by Thy grace, the vict'ry's won,  
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,  
Since Thou in triumph leadest me.”