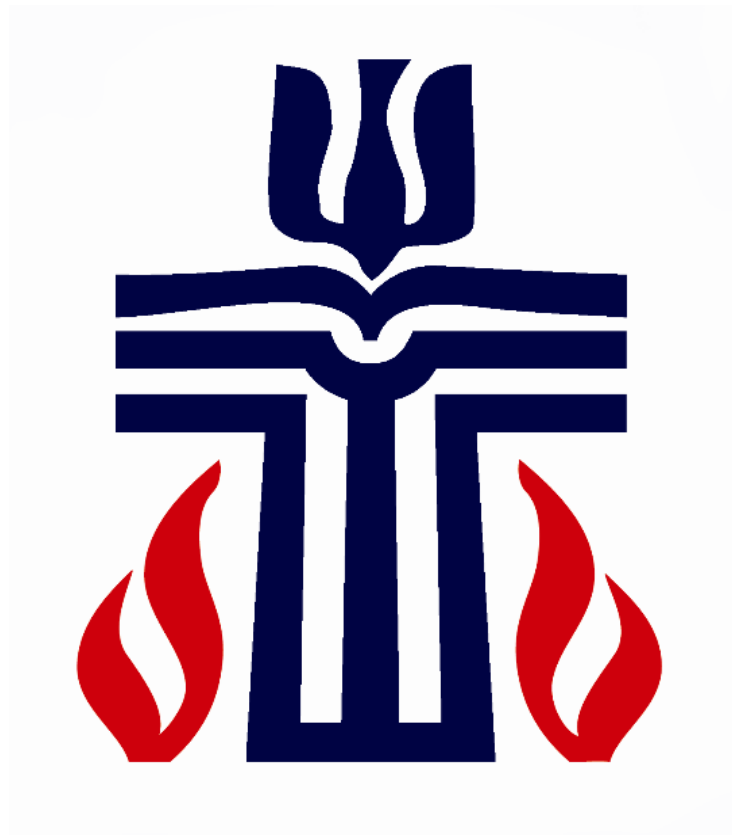


**Service of Witness to the Resurrection  
of  
Dennis McGroarty**



**Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
East Lansing, Michigan  
June 11, 2022  
1:00 p.m.**



## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*\*Congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.*

*Bold text is read by the congregation.*

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

### **Sentences of Scripture**

#### **Call to Worship**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

*who made heaven and earth.*

Peace I leave you with; my peace I give to you.

*Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
and do not let them be afraid.*

Praise the Lord.

*The Lord's name be praised.*

### **Hymn #15 All Creatures of Our God and King (verses 1-4)**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

Let us confess our sin, trusting God's promised mercy.

*Holy God, you see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts.*

*We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care.*

*We forget that all life comes from you,  
and that to you all life returns.*

*We have not always sought or done your will.*

*We have not lived as your grateful children,  
nor loved as Christ loved us.*

*Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us and make us whole.*

*Set us free from our sin and restore to us  
the joy of your salvation, now and forever. Amen.*

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Old Testament Readings**

Psalm 8

Isaiah 40 (select verses)

### **New Testament Reading**

Revelation 21:1-4, 22-25; 22:3-5

### **Proclamation and Eulogy**

**Hymn #22** God of the Sparrow

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer** *(using debts/debtors)*

*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 #14** For the Beauty of the Earth

**\*Blessing**

**\*Postlude**

† † †

Gifts in memory of Dennis McGroarty may be given to:

*Eastminster Presbyterian Church*

Memorial envelopes can be found in the narthex.

† † †

**Participants in Today's Service**

Rev. Kristin Stroble

*Pastor*

Alyssa Snelson

*Pianist*



Dennis Lee McGroarty, age 79, passed away surrounded by loving family on February 4, 2022. Dennis was born on June 24, 1942 in Whiting, IN to Joseph and Janet (Ciss) McGroarty. Dennis was a 1960 graduate of Hammond High School and attended Valparaiso University, 1960-61. In 1965, he earned his B.S. degree from Purdue University's Wildlife Biology program. At Purdue, Dennis met his loyal and loving wife, Estelle (Beihl) McGroarty whom he married on August 27, 1967. From 1965-1967 he served as wildlife area manager of the Kingsbury and Adderbury State Game Areas in Northern Indiana. From 1965-1971, Dennis was a member of the Indiana National Guard, and in 1971 he earned his M.S. in Entomology at Purdue University. In 1972, Dennis and Estelle moved to East Lansing, Michigan, eventually settling down in Holt, Michigan where they raised their two children, Michael (Michelle) McGroarty and Kathleen (Ines) McGroarty-Torres. Completing his formal education, Dennis earned his PhD in Entomology from Michigan State University in 1977.

Dennis was an amazing man. The stories he told were mesmerizing...and usually hilarious. Despite his occasional gruffness, people loved talking with Dennis because he was interesting, and because he had a way of making them believe they were interesting too. People felt special and important when they were with Dennis. His sincerity, calming presence, and genuine engagement were as legendary as his sense of humor. He loved to make kids laugh. Dennis spent his life teaching people of all ages about biology, conservation, and the beauty of the natural world. He was an adjunct professor of biology at Lansing Community College from 1975-2014 and served as a lecturer at Michigan State University in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Dennis was proud of being on the cutting edge of modern education, teaching some of the first virtual courses at LCC. He also challenged students with field trips that provided hands-on experiences in destinations as close as the local bog or as far off as the rain forests of Costa Rica. Dennis was always excited to point out the specific insects, plants, and wildlife that helped define the ecological niche. He shared his knowledge with countless children throughout the Lansing area. This included catching

critters in rivers and streams with the Cub Scouts, saving neighborhood homes from unwanted bats and rodents, sharing his collection of animal skins and skulls, and doing insect dissections in his grandchildren's classrooms.

Dennis was an avid outdoorsman who was most happy in a fishing boat or a goose blind. He was a capable fly-tyer, taxidermist, waterfowl carver, beekeeper, gardener, and collector of critters, enjoying his hobbies with his children and grandchildren. He and Estelle traveled the world and enjoyed the ecology of places like Belize, the Galapagos Islands, Spain, Ireland, Mexico, and many places in the U.S. But his favorite destination was always his cottage on Loon Lake with his family and friends.

Dennis leaves behind his wife of 54 years, Estelle, his son Michael and daughter Kathleen, his grandchildren Avery McGroarty, Joseph McGroarty, Kaitlyn McGroarty, Estevan Torres, Diego Torres, and Clara Paz Torres. Daughter-in-law Michelle McGroarty and son-in-law Ines Torres also held very special places in his heart. He leaves behind many loving cousins, nieces, nephews and friends with whom he was always ready to share a drink and a story. Dennis taught all his family members what it means to show unconditional love and support. He was incredibly proud of his wife, children, and grandchildren and always showed up to cheer them on. Over the years, he attended countless swimming and gymnastics meets, soccer games, band concerts, theatrical productions, and dance recitals. And he was always ready with big hugs and words of wisdom when the curtains closed and the scores were tallied. He would remind us to "go with the flow" and not to "sweat the small shit." His words resonate with us still, and we hope to continue making him proud.

Dennis served several terms as a deacon and elder at Holt Presbyterian Church and Eastminster Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, take a kid fishing or on a walk through the woods; contributions can be made to Eastminster Presbyterian Church.

**Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
1315 Abbot Road ▪ East Lansing, MI  
48823 ▪ (517) 337-0893**

**[www.eastminsterchurch.org](http://www.eastminsterchurch.org)**

**YouTube:**

**[www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing](http://www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing)**