



*Her children rise up and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her.  
Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all*

*Proverbs 31:28-29*

*I Love Gaga  
Dhyia*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

**Revelation 21:1-4**

CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
*In loving memory of Sarah Phillips*

Saturday, May 16, 2026 | 11AM  
College Church, Wheaton

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**Prelude**

Rebecca Visser, niece  
Musicians from Camerata Chicago

**Special Music**

*Be Thou My Vision*  
Stephanie Chiodras, soprano

**Welcome and Invocation**

Josh Moody, Senior Pastor

**Remembrances**

Nate Phillips, Mark Phillips, children

**Hymn\***

*It Is Well With My Soul*

**Hymn\***

*Behold Our God*

**Scripture Readings**

John 4:7-14, John 14: 1-4  
Bob Gillespie, friend

**Message**

Rev. Dayantha Perera  
from Sri Lanka

1 Corinthians 15:50-58, Rev. 21:1-4

David Hearing, brother

**Hymn\***

*Amazing Grace*

**Hymn\***

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

**Benediction**

Pastor Josh Moody

**Remembrances**

Will Phillips, Liz Farber, children

**Postlude**

Rebecca Visser

\*Please stand if able

Musicians from Camerata Chicago: Rika Seko (violin), Joanna Nerius (violin), Istvan Loga (viola),  
Christopher Ferrer (cello), Andrew Anderson (double bass)

You are invited to join the family for fellowship in the Commons building across the street immediately following the service.

# IT IS WELL

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my  
4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll— what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re - sound, and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more: praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so, it is well with my soul.

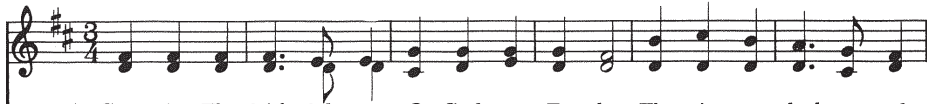
*Refrain*

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul,

# GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

William M. Runyan, 1923



1. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, There is no shad-ow of  
2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and springtime and har-vest, Sun, moon and stars in their  
3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thy own dear pres-ence to



turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-pas-sions they fail not;  
cours-es a-bove Join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness  
cheer and to guide; Strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row,



*Refrain*

As Thou hast been Thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
To Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!  
Bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!



Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have



need-ed Thy hand hath pro-vid-ed—Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!



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## BEHOLD OUR GOD

Who has held the oceans in His hands  
Who has numbered every grain of sand  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice  
All creation rises to rejoice

### Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne  
Come let us adore Him  
Behold our King nothing can compare  
Come let us adore Him

Who has given counsel to the Lord  
Who can question any of His words  
Who can teach the One who knows all things  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds

Who has felt the nails upon His hands  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man  
God eternal humbled to the grave  
Jesus Savior risen now to reign

You will reign forever  
(Let Your glory fill the earth)  
You will reign forever  
(Let Your glory fill)

## AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now am found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun



Sarah Phillips entered the presence of her Savior on Friday, May 1, 2026, surrounded by the love of her husband, Rich, her four children, and the prayers of her family. She was 69 years old.

Sarah lived with both open hands and open doors. She created beauty everywhere she went. She grew it, cooked it, set it on the table, and invited everyone she knew to come sit down.

She had a gardener's eye and a florist's patience. She cut stems in the morning and brought them inside in glass jars and pitchers, never the same arrangement twice. She knew that a few peonies on the kitchen island and a handful of hydrangeas by the guest bed were forms of welcome and love.

She loved tennis. She enjoyed the discipline and the way it kept her outside and active long past the age most people give such things up. Friends remember her laughter on the baseline as readily as her backhand. She was out to play and also to be with the people across the net. And, of course, she was always pleased when she could walk away with a win!

Sarah was a magnificent cook. She knew when meat had rested long enough, when bread had risen, when a sauce wanted another five minutes. She cooked without rushing, attentive to whoever was in front of her.

Hospitality was her spiritual gift. When someone arrived, lamps were on, cushions were in place, and a plate of warm cookies was likely on the counter. The mess of a large family was welcome. Long conversations that ran past bedtime were welcome. She received people generously with the simple goal of showing Christ's love to them. How she managed to keep a beautiful home, have nourishing food ready for guests, and still sit and have real conversations with them remains a mystery to her family and friends. Everyone who entered her home felt seen. Sarah was a guiding light to her children and their friends who were invited in — though her brightness was never her own; she lived to point others to Christ.

Her hospitality reached far beyond her own walls. After the 2004 tsunami, she and Rich traveled with their children to Sri Lanka, where they served alongside Rev. Dayantha and Sheami Perera, helping rebuild what the sea had taken. The friendships forged there have lasted across decades and continents. The same warmth that filled her kitchen traveled with her around the world.

Above it all, above the flowers and the tennis and the food and the open door, was her family. She structured her days around them. She drove long distances to be at their games, their birthdays, and their hard moments. She answered the phone every time it rang, and she was visibly delighted when she saw which child or grandchild was calling. She lived for the chaos of a full house. The grandchildren running through her kitchen, the children at her counter, Rich at her side. She wanted, more than anything, for her family to be together. And when they were, she set out the flowers, made the food, opened the door, and sat down with them.

For forty-six years she walked beside Rich as his wife and his closest friend. Together they raised four children: Nate (Alison), Liz (Matt), Will (Sara), and Mark (Emily). They lived to see fourteen grandchildren, who knew her as “Gaga”: Ben, Timothy, Peter, Jacob, Lydia, Sam, Luke, Tessa, Zachary, Cal, Jackson, Hank, William, and a baby boy due to be born in early June.

Rich and Sarah considered their marriage a testimony. From the beginning, they wanted their love for each other to be a light to the world and a witness of Christ’s love for them. So they loved one another in plain view of their children, their grandchildren, and every guest at their table, always holding hands and always caring for one another. Their marriage served to point past itself to their Savior.

Sarah loved Jesus. That was the central fact of her life. She believed deeply in the power of prayer, and her single most consistent prayer was that her children, and her children’s children, would walk faithfully with the Lord.

In her final moments, Sarah opened her eyes and looked once more at Rich. He told her, gently, to go be with Jesus. She made a small sound, her family will always understand it as her last word of love, and she breathed her last.

She did not leave a void. She lit a fire. The faith she carried has been handed forward to her children and her grandchildren, who do not grieve as those without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Sarah is with the Savior she loved. She was, as one of her sons has said, perfectly designed for heaven. If legacy is not what we leave behind but what we set in motion, Sarah leaves a legacy of faithfulness, love, and beauty.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Matthew’s House of Naples, a ministry Sarah supported that shares the hope of Christ while caring for those in Southwest Florida facing homelessness, addiction, hunger, and hardship.



College Church