

A Celebration of the Life of Shannon Timmons

Welcome & Prayer
Pastor Jeff

Scripture:
39:1-7

Lucie Simpson
Bridge

Psalm

Pastor Jeff

Special:

Janice

He's
Always
Been
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HALLELUJAH

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Shannon's Life
Vianne & Linda

Scripture

Richard
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John
14:1-6;27

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Words
Jeff

Pastor

Special Music
Frank Berg

I'm Not

Alright

Words/Prayer

Pastor Jeff

Worship Song

EVERYTHING GLORIOUS

Prayer/Committal

Pastor

Jeff

Benediction

Pastor

Jeff

Shannon Timmons

A Celebration of the Life of

Welcome & Prayer

Pastor Jeff

On behalf of Shannon's family, I would like to thank you for coming to join us this morning as we remember and celebrate the life of Shannon Timmons.

She was a special person...
and this morning we are going to slow down a bit and remember her....

I had the privilege of meeting with some family members the other night and we had time to share and I got a sense of the love that this family has for each other. We talked of growing up and the places they lived which were often accessible only by plane or train and I discovered how they watched out for each other.

As we talked they were very clear... they want for this service...
to be one where we celebrate the life of Shannon. I was so glad to hear that.

Now we can't celebrate her life without recognizing that Shannon was a spiritual person. Three years ago I had the privilege of hearing her testimony and baptizing her. We had worked through a spiritual inventory where one formalizes their surrender to God. Shannon took this very seriously and she surrendered her life completely.... and.... unreservedly to God.

So you see... this is not just a celebration of her earthly life.... but also a celebration of the fact that in Jesus Christ..... she lives forever..... with God.... in peace.

I believe..... (P) that Jesus (P) is not finished using Shannon.

.....
When I baptize people.... I sit and listen... and seek for the Lord to give me words from Him.... for the person being baptized...
these are the words God gave me for Shannon...
spoken to her and only her just before I baptized her.... by immersion.

“Shannon....

I want you to relax.... just experience all that God has for you in this... This is not just physical.... it is spiritual as well.

This is what Jesus wants to say to you.....”

“Shannon I am well pleased with you..... Walk with me....

*I want to shine brighter and brighter through you....
Keep praying for your boys... (P) Trust in me Shannon...
always....*

find your strength in me.

*Do not be fooled by worldly wisdom and worldly ways....
I have much to do through you...”*

I believe.... with all my heart....
that the Spirit is at work in the lives of many.... right now....
And that in the coming weeks and months He will be
speaking to many of us.... about what is important....
about.... how He wants us to live...
And I believe that this.... is where that last line.... applies...

“I have much to do.... thru you.”

Shannon’s earthly life is over... but her life in heaven is
just beginning...
And the impact.... of her life here on earth... is not finished
either.

That.... my friends..... is up to us.

The question for each of us is...

“Will we allow God to speak to us.... thru Shannon’s life?”

PRAY: Lord Jesus we open ourselves up
to you..... and your voice this morning... open our
ears and eyes to what you would have us hear
and see... We admit we are caught up..... and
we are missing things... we want to see.... show
us Lord... teach us Lord... move us toward your
incredible love..... as we celebrate the life of one
of your children.... Shannon Timmons.

Lucie Simpson is a good friend to many... including Shannon....
she is honest... she is caring... her love for others undeniable...
as is her love for Jesus.
She is going to come and read a passage of scripture...

Psalm 39:1-7

*"I will hold my tongue
when the ungodly are around me."
But as I stood there in silence—
not even speaking of good things—
the turmoil within me grew worse.
The more I thought about it,
the hotter I got,
igniting a fire of words:
"LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be.
Remind me that my days are numbered--
how fleeting my life is.
You have made my life no longer than the width of my
hand.
My entire lifetime is just a moment to you;
at best, each of us is but a breath."
We are merely moving shadows,
and all our busy rushing ends in nothing.
We heap up wealth,
not knowing who will spend it.*

*And so, Lord, where do I put my hope?
My only hope is in you.”*

SPECIAL: Janice
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN FAITHFUL
Link to youtube video of song:
[http://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=pHFK94QH5sU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHFK94QH5sU)

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

*Morning by morning I wake up to find
The power and comfort of God's hand in mine
Season by season I watch Him, amazed
In awe of the mystery of His perfect ways
All I have need of, His hand will provide
He's always been faithful to me.*

*I can't remember a trial or a pain
He did not recycle to bring me gain
I can't remember one single regret
In serving God only, and trusting His hand
All I have need of, His hand will provide
He's always been faithful to me.*

*This is my anthem, this is my song
The theme of the stories I've heard for so long
God has been faithful, He will be again
His loving compassion, it knows no end
All I have need of, His hand will provide
He's always been faithful, He's always been faithful
He's always been faithful to me.*

This service would just... not be right if we did not worship
and sing...

even more..... it wouldn't be right...
if we didn't engage and think about what we are singing.

Shannon loved worship... she loved to sing...
and she engaged the words and music....
with her heart.... and mind.... and soul...

In particular... songs about creation and the beauty of this
incredible world that God has designed.... were very close
to her heart....

Let's honour her.... and honour God..... as we
sing....

WORSHIP

CREATION

CALLS

Link to youtube video:

[http://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=IEpvwKD3CVg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEpvwKD3CVg)

HALLELUJAH

Who made the stars, for the evening?

Who made the sun, for the dawn?

The mountains above

The valleys beneath

Sing your praise

The heavens above

The waters beneath

Sing your praise

Hallelujah

*Lord of mercy
You can hear me
Singing sovereign
I adore thee*

Words:

Vianne Speelman & Linda
Timmons

Scripture:

John 14:1-6,

27

Romans 8: 35-39

Richard

Words of comfort to the disciples from Jesus before He was crucified from John chapter 14....

“Don't let your hearts be troubled..... Trust in God, and trust also in me.

There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going.”

“No, we don't know, Lord,” Thomas said..... “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. “I am leaving you with a gift--peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give..... So don't be troubled or afraid.

Words of comfort from Paul to those in Christ Jesus from Romans chapter 8

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?

Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love.

Neither death nor life....., neither angels nor demons....., neither our fears for today..... nor our worries about tomorrow — not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

No power in the sky above..... or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WORDS:

Lord speak to us of eternal things... things that we do not understand... help us understand.... show us the Way.... show us your love....

We listen not just to words..... but for your still small voice.... to speak.... to our hearts and souls... this morning... we declare that we seek... and are open to.... an encounter with You.... a Word from You.... AMEN

The death of a loved one is always painful... (P)
which is why I found it strange....
when I first read these words from the Bible....

Ecclesiastes 7:2, "It is better to go to a funeral.... than a festival."

A accurate modern translation would simply say....
"it is better to go to a funeral.... than to a party."

Okay.... now I don't know about you....
but at first glance.... I find this.... a little strange,

Yet the Bible clearly talks about how both funerals and festivals or parties play important roles in our lives.

God is definitely not against celebrating.... and having parties.

Actually God called the Jewish people to have many festivals throughout the year... parties that went on for days..... really....

Parties are okay.... (P) according to the Bible..... and yet it seems...

quite clearly.... that this verse....

"It is better to go to a funeral than a party."

says..... that funerals are better.
Why?

I mean how many people out there like going to funerals...

People don't go around saying...

"Hey listen there's a great funeral happening today.... let's go"

What's the deal?

Is it because God hates to see people having a good time?

I don't think so....

Jesus loved a good party... He turned water into wine... into premium wine actually.

Jesus was good with parties.....
He was accused..... of having too much fun.

And as I understand it.... Shannon liked parties as well... the other night I learned that she loved to dance.....

and that.... she was good at it..... actually needed a protector sometimes when guys would misunderstand....

King David.... in the Old testament loved to dance before the Lord...
with all his might.... it says he danced....

Parties are okay... (P) in God's book...
Yet funerals are considered.... more important.

Why is that?

We need to sort this out.

I think that.... reflecting on Shannon's life will help us.

I believe that funerals are higher ranked.....
because of the potential long-term spiritual impact....
they can have upon us.

You see festivals and parties tend to divert our attention away from our mortality.

While on the other hand..... funerals and memorial services,
remind us very clearly that life..... is a temporary assignment.

We live.... (P) in the Valley of the shadow of death.

Psalm 90 verse 12 says,
"Teach us to make the MOST of our time....,
so that we
may GROW in wisdom."

Memorial services.... are opportunities for us to remember loved ones... while at the same time.... they give us the chance to reflect on what is most important.... in life..... so that we may make the most.... of the time.... that God has given to us.

The Bible does not hesitate to speak about our common enemy, death.

In Ecclesiastes 3 it says that in God's wisdom,

.....
"there is a time to be born.... (P) and there is a time to die."

All of us here this morning have an appointment with death –

It is part of His plan....

Have you come to terms with that....yet?.....

It is the one appointment that none of us.... will be able to postpone –

It is one.... (P) that we will not be able to cancel.

.....

and it is one..... that may pop up at any moment.

And yet.... (P) in the face of his own death and departure from this world... Jesus speaks these words to His disciples... that Richard read..

"Do not..... let your hearts.... be troubled. Trust..... in God...

Trust..... also.... in me."

Friends, as we celebrate Shannon's life today....

(P)

I believe that what she would want most of all..... is that we each...

in some small way..... come face to face with the truth.... that -

like her – we all have an appointment with eternity.....

that may come sooner..... than we.... or anyone else would expect...

and the most important thing you can do,

just as the disciples did, (P)

and just as Shannon did,

is to place your trust..... in God... and in His Son.... Jesus Christ.

the only place..... where hope lies....

Shannon did this..... and as we remember her....

we must respect that Shannon was a very spiritual person...

she was serious about her faith.... (P) about learning...

she was one of the few.... who would actually speak out during my message at a worship service...

I'm trying to get this happening more and more these days....

engage the people present.... and allow them to interact....

give them opportunities... (P) to speak out... during the message....

Now fact is.... with Shannon... even if I didn't give an opportunity....

or even if I just asked.... a rhetorical question....

she was ready..... and spoke out with an answer.... and as Al Brown said to me the other night she'd often be right and he would be wrong.

And that says something...

I loved that she was plugged in..... and listening to every word...
and always honest about what she thought.

She loved Jesus.... and sought to follow Him....
and she respected His Word.

She did so... by having a heart to help children.... and those in need.

She was passionate about the Samaritans Purse...
Operation Christmas Child....

She was always willing to open her home to Missionaries who were coming to visit.... and open her home to anybody else for that matter...
Helping people on the street... those struggling... and facing challenges.... Down on their luck...

.....

Maybe.... the fact that she knew a little bit about struggling herself.....
is why her heart went out to those.... who were facing challenges.

She was always generous to help others...
she would come to me after the service with outrageous and radical plans to do wonderful things for those in need...

God sized plans... that I will admit sometimes I thought...
“reality check... is this possible...”

But she had faith.... and she would be looking in your
eyes....

with eyes..... that simply... just believed....

It is nice to look into the eyes of someone.... who has
simple faith...

child like faith..... Jesus says that without this....

simple.... childlike faith..... you cannot enter heaven.

.....

I want to share one more thing about Shannon that the
Lord spoke to me clearly about the other night..... while
sharing with her family.

It came all of a sudden but with such clarity... and I know
that He wants us.... to hear this...

In the church... everyone has ideas about how things
should be.....

and pretty much most of us....., including me.....,

get frustrated at times when things don't go.... or are not
done....

our way.

So many.... who always seem to be passionately upset....
or concerned.... about one thing.... or another.

I realized that in..... all the time Shannon was attending....

she never once..... had some issue about the way something was done.... or how something should be different.

She didn't speak negatively.... about things.... or people...

Now she might tell you with brutal honesty... to your face... exactly how she felt..... about your hair...

But she didn't go around speaking ill of others.

Or being negative about how something was being planned...

Never... (P) not even once... now some of you might say...

“Oh Pastor... you don't know... she just kept that to herself... we knew... she'd tell us....”

but you know something.... (..... - LOOK) I don't think so...

You decide... (P) you think about it....

.....

Now in our church just recently we have been studying how the Bible reveals that just as a little bit of yeast works thru the whole batch of dough... things... words... can work

thru a whole organization or family or church... for good....
(P) or for bad....

Jesus and Paul call us to deal with issues that we have face to face or let them go.... They call us to focus on the positive and good in people and situations... not the negative...

And fact is Shannon didn't spread... bad stuff. Didn't talk behind people's back... didn't critique everything.... I only saw this clearly the other day.... you know something people like that fly under the radar...

To identify them you have to stop and start to think about others...

and the strangest people come to mind... people you hadn't thought of like that... they don't stand out they are not a squeaky wheel...

and fact is..... there are not many people like this.....

Around.... these days..... People who aren't critical and people who don't speak negatively about people and situations....

Shannon was one.... she simply loved Jesus.... and wanted to help those in need....

Another passage that we have been studying says that... narrow is the path that leads to eternal life and only a few find it...

while broad is the path that leads to destruction and many find it....

I have come to realize that if you are pretty much living and acting....

like the majority of the people out there... the Jones' so to speak...

you aren't in... (P) such a good place... (P) according to Jesus.

You know something... (P) these days.... (P) most people aren't...

But.... if you are quite different... than the majority.... in how you live and act and speak... this might be very good...

As we reflect on the life of Shannon we recognize challenges and struggles..... that she was unique...

We all have challenges and struggles.... and we are all unique...

But I believe there is something.... within the life of Shannon that we can grasp onto that will help us...

She found the narrow road... that leads to eternal life... and walked it....

Lived it....

Her transparency, her honesty, her not speaking ill of others... but going to them... her heart to help those in

need... her positive attitude.... her God sized goals to help people..... He seriousness about listening and learning spiritual things....

You can be as different as you want... and as strange as you want....

As unique as you want and still walk the narrow way.... and honour God... and have your life a testimony....

Remember those words Jesus gave me for Shannon at her baptism...

“Shannon I am well pleased with you. Walk with me....

I want to shine brighter and brighter through you.

Keep praying for your boys... Trust in me Shannon...

always.... find your strength in me. Do not be fooled by worldly wisdom and worldly ways....

I have much to do through you....”

Shannon's earthly life is over...

but her life in heaven is just beginning...

And the impact of her life here on earth..... goes on.

In the lives of you.... and me...

SPECIAL

FRANK

I'M NOT
ALRIGHT
Link to Youtube video:
[http://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=o1gyidEoeV0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1gyidEoeV0)

If weakness is a wound that no one wants to speak of

Then "cool" is just how far we have to fall
I am not immuned, I only want to be loved
But I feel safe behind the firewall

Can I lose my need to impress?
If you want the truth I need to confess

I'm not alright, I'm broken inside
And all I go through, it leads me to you

Burn away the pride
Bring me to my weakness
Until everything I hide behind is gone
And when I'm open wide with nothing left to cling to
Only you are there to lead me on.

'Cause honestly, I'm not that strong.

I'm not alright, I'm broken inside
Broken inside
And all I go through, it leads me to you
Leads me to you
Closer to you
Closer to you
Closer to you

I'm not alright I'm broken inside
Broken inside
I'm broken inside, Broken inside
And all I go through leads me to you
Leads me to you

I'm not alright, I'm not alright
I'm not alright ... that's why I need you.

WORDS

When Frank and I were picking songs and he came up with that one... we knew.. Sensed in the Spirit this was it.... the sense was overwhelming.... Fact is every single one of us could sing that song personally with passion.... and mean it. You may try and hide it or deny it but it is true....

Shannon knew the tune as well... She found a safe place with God through Jesus....

If you feel broken inside... if you are having struggles... the path to healing... and life begins by coming to God and just stating the facts... I am a bit messed up God... help me... and then following through by learning more about God and walking with Him through the highs and lows of life.

Pray with me....

Lord we come to you broken hurting... struggling... and in need of help... spiritual help... physical help... emotional help... we open up to you... move into our lives... bring the healing that only you can... show us the narrow path that only a few walk these days and help us walk it.... the path that Shannon knew and walked.

WORSHIP: EVERYTHING
GLORIOUS

Link to You Tube video -

[http://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=81dK2Vu1IUs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81dK2Vu1IUs)

COMMITTAL:

Lord you do make everything glorious and you made
Shannon and you remade her in the image of your Son...
she is now in your care...

we trust you with her... thank you for your work in her
life.... thank you for the time we had with her... she will not
return to us... but in Christ we will one day see her.....

AMEN

Benediction

“And now..... may the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
guard your hearts..... and your minds..... in Christ Jesus.”

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