

Elizabeth Adda Robinson Ratcliffe

November 1, 1923 – December 17, 2015

Known by three names, Elizabeth was born in Barre, Vermont. The youngest of three children, she grew up in China and beginning at age six, took on the name of Lepai ('p' is pronounced 'b'). In her middle years and beyond she was known to many as Liz.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband Lewis Perry; her children Stephen, Bruce, Patty, and David; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth's father was a missionary (Congregationalist) and her mother was a teacher. Along with her two older brothers, she grew up in China, returning to the US for her senior year of high school. She attended Wellesley on a scholarship, majoring in Art History with a minor in English. In her senior year she met her future husband John Waldo Ratcliffe on her 21st birthday. They were married in 1946.

Almost 20 years later after raising a family of four, the marriage ended and Elizabeth began reinventing herself, first by receiving a MA in Byzantine Medieval Art History in 1973 and then a MS in Counseling Psychology in 1975. Influenced by Martin Buber, Rollo May, Carl Rogers, Carl Jung, and Teilhard de Chardin, she went on to establish herself in a host of endeavors involving psychology and art history. These included Marriage and Family Counselor, Art Therapist, faculty member of Notre Dame's Graduate Art Therapy Department, and a psychotherapist in private practice, retiring at age 86. In her own words, Elizabeth was "dedicated to whoever and whatever seems to have a raw deal."

In November 2001, after 35 years on her own, Elizabeth married Lewis Perry and in the final 14 years of her life she further explored the unknown possibilities of existence, relationship, and connection. Near the end of her days Elizabeth expressed what for her was life's purpose: "To try and connect and not stay separate.... What you leave behind in other people is what's left [after death] because that seems the most real.... The connection I made with other people, the relationships—that is what lives on. That's what life everlasting is about."

Visit an expanding archive of Elizabeth's life and family at: EARR1923.net

Donations in Elizabeth's memory may be made to: The First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704, or The American Red Cross, Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839, <http://redcross.org/contact-us>

Elizabeth Adda Robinson Ratcliffe Commending Her Journey

November 1, 1923 – December 17, 2015



April 17, 2016 1:30 PM

First Congregational Church of Berkeley
United Church of Christ

KEYS TO THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Denotes to please stand as you are able.

BOLD PRINT denotes Congregation participation

Opening Music Brendan Connor, organ
“Sheep May Safely Graze” by J.S. Bach

Call to Worship Rachel Bauman

***Hymn** “All Creatures of Our God and King”
The Chalice Hymnal [RED] #22

Reading from Scripture Helen Rubardt
Psalm 23 [American Standard Version]
The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He guideth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou hast anointed my head with oil;
My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Eulogy Nancy Jaicks Alexander

Musical Recording “And He Shall Purify” (from San Mateo Congregational
Church’s *Messiah*)

Words of Remembrance The Ratcliffe Family

Reflections from the Community

Musical Interlude David Ratcliffe, piano
“Prelude #2 in C minor” by George Gershwin

Prayer of Thanksgiving Rachel Bauman

***Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Song** Molly Maguire, ukulele & vocals
“Somewhere Over the Rainbow”

Sung Prayer Shahid Abdul
“Surah Al-Fatihah,” Qurani Verse

Commendation & Blessing Rachel Bauman

***Hymn** “Great Is Your Faithfulness”
The New Century Hymnal [BLACK] #423

Benediction Rachel Bauman

Please remain seated while enjoying the postlude.

Postlude David Ratcliffe, piano
“Last Date”

LEADERS IN THIS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Rachel Bauman, Minister of Community Life
Brendan Conner, Organist
Bruce, David, Patty & Stephen Ratcliffe, Children of Liz
Helen Rubardt, Friend of Liz
Nancy Jaicks Alexander, Friend of Liz
Molly Maguire, Friend of Liz
Shahid Abdul, Friend of Liz & Piedmont Gardens Employee
Chris Hamill, Deacon
Kathy & Bob Helliesen, Louise Halsey & Jim Coates, Ushers
Patty & Wilson Hoffman, Andy Young, Memorial Service Guild
Mark Stichman, Sound
Tucker Bennett, Media Assistant
Frankie Wei, Point Person

The family invites you to attend a reception after the service in the Large Assembly.