

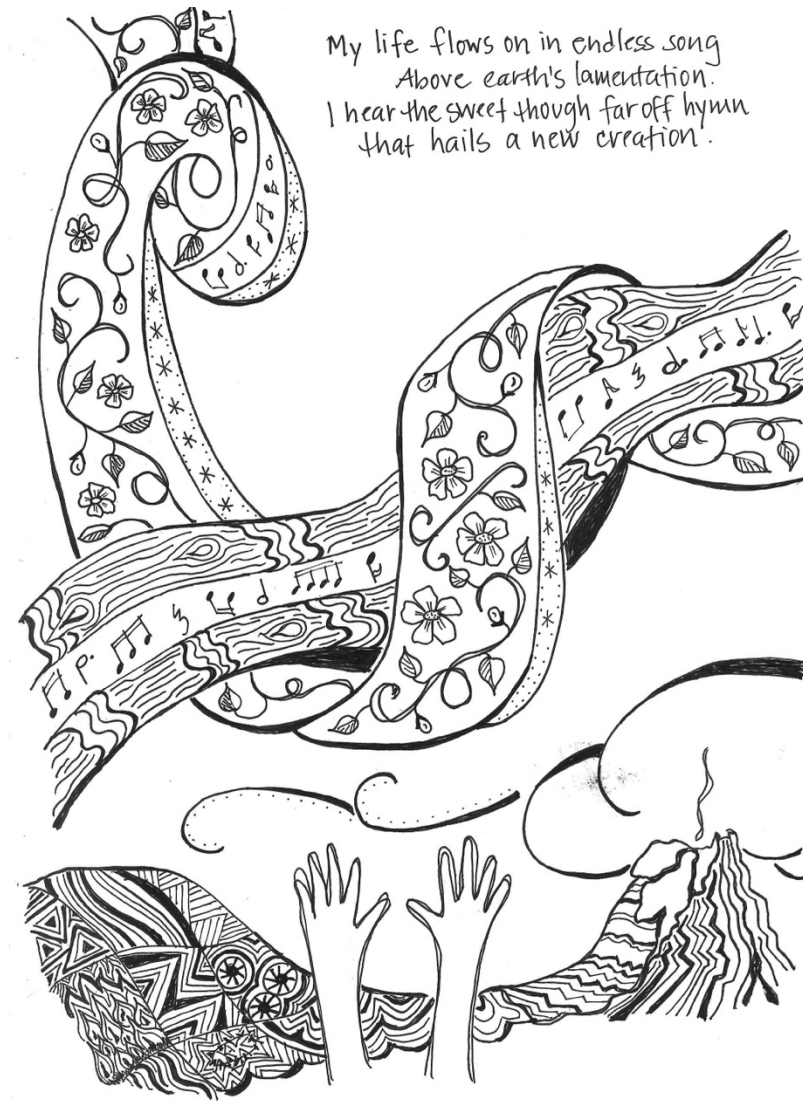


Pennylyn Dykstra Pruim
June 1, 1966 – August 16, 2024

Penny will be remembered and missed for her gracious hospitality and vibrant creativity. She was quick to suggest a comforting cup of tea or to welcome another person at the table. Penny enjoyed the search for the perfect gift or just the right way to say something. She extended her hospitality to welcoming faculty and students to campus, hosting students from Germany and Korea for long-term stays in her home, and supporting the Calvin Interfaith Alliance.

Never wanting to sit idly by, she nearly always had a sketch pad or knitting supplies with her. Penny's hand-knit wool socks and mitties are like Penny herself — cozy, comforting, creative, and amazingly strong. She crafted cherished Christmas letters; a novel for each of her children; countless cards and notes, often adorned with her artwork; numerous short stories, poems, and anecdotes; and four family recipe books, in which she shared both the results of her creativity in the kitchen and delightful stories of the people who ate her cooking. Much of her writing she honed by sharing first with her writers' group, *Peregrin*.

She combined hospitality and creativity into a passion for teaching German language and culture, first at Brown University and then at Calvin University. She loved crafting lesson plans and teaching materials, including textbooks for German language learners: *Auf Geht's (Let's Go!)*, *Weiter Geht's (Keep Going!)*, and *Schreiben Lernen! (Learn to Write!)*. For her creative and inspiring teaching, she was awarded the Nelson Brooks Award for Excellence in Teaching Culture by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and the From Every Nation Award for Excellence in Teaching by Calvin University. Penny's workshops for faculty, church groups, and other organizations on everything from prayer doodling to intercultural communication engaged, educated, and energized in equal measure. In recent years she transitioned from the German language classroom to serving as Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion. Her book *Understanding Us and Them: Interpersonal Cultural Intelligence for Community Building* distills many of her insights in that area. Her podcast, [*Diversity and Inclusion for All*](#), stands as a legacy to Penny's commitment to welcome and embrace differences as we learn and grow from them.



Memorial Service
celebrating the life of
Pennylyn Dykstra Pruim

Saturday, August 24, 2024

Prelude John and Gwen Varineau

Welcome Pastor Tony Holmes Curran

*Opening Song: *How Can I Keep from Singing?*

Lamentations 3:19-24 Alan Rindels, brother-in-law

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Rev. Jay Pruim, father-in-law

Meditation Pastor Jennifer Holmes Curran

*Song of Response: *10,000 Reasons*

Reflections

Bev Pruim, mother-in-law
Mike Borst, friend
Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige, colleague
Nik Pruim, child, read by Marla Ehlers, friend

Pictures of Heaven: Excerpts from *Grace's December Treasure*

Andrew Pruim, child
Pennylyn Pruim

Song: *Bless the Lord My Soul (Taizé)*

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.

Prayer

Pastor Tony Holmes Curran

Join, when beckoned.

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 the evil one.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen

*Song: *Come Thou Fount*

*Benediction Pastor Jennifer Holmes Curran

*Closing Song: *The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases*

Postlude

John and Gwen Varineau

Following the service, please join us for lunch in the lower level.