



SUNDAY, JULY 26TH MORNING MESSAGE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF JULY

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TED LAND

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

Greetings in Christ Jesus!

This week has been a busy week for your Transitional pastor. Two Session meetings to moderate on ZOOM, a Bible study and a worship service to record, may not seem like much of a work load, but the preparation adds up. I also put together the preaching schedule for August, so our musicians would have a hint at what sort of music to select. They do an excellent job of matching music with scripture and sermon. I am grateful for the job they do.

I mentioned earlier the death of my friend, Gerald Voye. He and I met at Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. The Seminary suffered several losses of beloved leaders this month.

Keith Nickle served at Columbia in several capacities before returning to the pastorate.

James Newsome served as Director of Advanced Studies and Professor of Old Testament for more than two decades. He was my doctoral advisor, and the prime reason I have the only Doctor of Ministry in Old Testament Studies Columbia has ever granted.

Shortly after I completed my studies at Columbia, Douglas Oldenburg became President of the Seminary. A noted pastor and preacher, Doug was elected Moderator of General Assembly, the highest honor and greatest responsibility of our denomination.

All three had long been retired, but had remained active. Keith was 87, Jim was 89, and Doug was 85.

Lately, I feel a bit like an obituary writer for a newspaper. But the death of the saints, of leaders in the Presbyterian Church, should not go unnoticed.

In his obituary, it was noted that the thing Doug Oldenburg took greatest pride in was his work on A Declaration of Faith. This document from the 1970's is not a part of our Book of Confessions. In Doug Oldenburg 's memory, I plan to draft an overture to the General Assembly to begin the process to add this product of the old P.C.U.S. to our collection of Theological statements.

"For all the saints, who from their labors rest,

Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,

Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia

Your Transitional Pastor,

Ted Land