

When I think of Faye Curtis, a smile comes to my lips... because Faye was always smiling. The last time we visited, she was a bit confused, and not altogether happy that she wasn't home, but a big smile broke out across her face when she saw me walk through the door. I will always think of that smile when I think of Faye, and I'll think about how she and Bobby loved to dance (I loved to watch them!), and I'll think about her chocolate cake. Oh, my! I don't know how I rated on her list to get a cake every year for my birthday, and I had the good sense never to question that! Faye could bake a cake, and in the center... Pure, chocolate sin running over. The whole middle of that cake, filled with Faye's abundant goodness.

In the gospel of Luke we hear Jesus saying to his disciples,

Luke 6.37-38

'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

A good measure, pressed down... running over... that cake, running over, was a measure of the way she gave... And those of us who knew her best and loved her most have gathered, because in all of us, Faye is getting back all that she gave... in your touch of love, in your gifts of support, in the way she will continue to live in us. And in

the eternal heart of God, now and forever, she's getting back even more.

In that spirit of abundance and grace and overflowing goodness, let us celebrate her life, and worship the God whose goodness and giving never ends.

INVOCATION

God of overflowing grace, we gather this day to celebrate. Though there are tears in our eyes, something about this day might even make us feel a little like dancing – for we are grateful for the joy Faye Curtis knew, and the way she shared it in all that she was and all that she had to give. In that spirit, gather with us, O God, that we may know your comforting care, and the powerful bond of Christian community...

And as we celebrate the faith that Faye held dear, give us the strength of Jesus Christ, who said, *"I am the resurrection and life... she who believes in me, will never die."* We claim that strength and assurance even as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray, saying...

Our Father...