



Celebrating the life and faith of
George Orthel Van Verst

August 17, 1935–December 8, 2023

January 13, 2024

2:00 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RIVER FOREST

7551 QUICK AVENUE, RIVER FOREST, IL 60305 | (708) 366-5822 | FIRSTPRESRF.ORG

George Van Verst

George Orthel Van Verst, 88, son of Katherine Opal Orthel and Paul Herbert Van Verst, brother to David P. Van Verst and Richard H. Van Verst, passed away peacefully in his home on Friday, December 8th, 2023. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Ellen Vugteveen (d. 2004), and survived by their children, Janet Mary Van Verst and Scott Paul Van Verst, husband to Mary Elizabeth Vosteen. George is also survived by his wife of 17 years, Nancy Long Sutherland, and his step-children, Michael Dale Clevenger II and Ami Celeste Fischer, wife of William George Fischer III, parents of Cameron Grace Fischer.

Born in 1935, George was baptized as an infant and remained a lifelong Presbyterian. He cherished singing in the choir at the First Presbyterian Church of River Forest.

George's favorite experiences as a teenager included summers at Camp Highlands in Sayner, WI, the second oldest boys camp in the United States.

A graduate of Oak Park River Forest High School, Hope College, and Loyola Dental School, George served in the Army for two years as a Dental Officer. For 36 years, he practiced dentistry in partnership with his brother, Richard, in Oak Park/River Forest.

George's passions included golf, bridge, travel, and learning the German language. He enjoyed playing the clarinet and was a lifelong lover of classical music, especially the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Known for his sense of humor, character, and gift for storytelling, George's pleasant and cheerful personality will always be remembered. He made the world a better place.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made to causes close to George's heart:

Restoration House: www.TheRestorationHouse.net

Chicago Lights: www.ChicagoLights.org

Share pictures, memories, and stories about George at tinyurl.com/weremember-georgevanverst.

**A Witness to the Resurrection
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
and to the Life and Faith of George Orthel Van Verst**

Prelude Jane Holstein, organ
Jennifer Cappelli, violin
Josh Ring, piano

***Call to Worship**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
The maker of heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8*

Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed,
his compassions never fail. They are new every morning.
Great is God's faithfulness! *Lamentations 3:22-23*

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ. *Galatians 3:27*

In his baptism George was clothed with Christ;
in the day of Christ's coming, he shall be clothed with glory!

***Hymn 529** For All the Saints

***Opening Prayer** The Rev. Dr. Paul Detterman

Anthem Joy in the Morning *Natalie Sleeth*

Eulogy Dr. Jack Swanson

Scripture Reading Isaiah 43:1-7 Kimberly Tenhor

Anthem Shepherd Me, O God *Marty Haugen*

Scripture Reading Hebrews 12:1-3 James Hunt

***Hymn 419** My Faith Looks Up to Thee

***Gospel Reading** John 14:1-6 The Rev. Donna Marsh

Homily God Makes Good Grumpas Pastor Detterman

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession Pastor Marsh

The Lord's Prayer

**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;
forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.**

Anthem Revelation 19 *Jeffery LaValley*

***Commendation** Pastor Detterman

***Hymn 428** When Peace Like a River

Benediction The Lord Bless You and Keep You *John Rutter*

Postlude

* Please stand in body or spirit



*Following this service there is a reception in the Social Hall.
You are cordially invited to greet the family there.
Interment will be private.*

Hymns for the Memorial Service of

George Orthel Van Verst

August 17, 1935–December 8, 2023

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529

For All the Saints

Unison, verses 1, 2, 5 and 6.

G Cmaj7 D7 Em G/B C G/B Am D G

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might; thou,
 5 But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day: the
 6 From earth's wide bounds and ocean's farthest coast, through

D F# A7 E D G/B D F# Gmaj7 A7 D D/C

thee by faith be fore the world con fessed, thy
 Lord, their cap tain in the well fought fight;
 saints tri um phant rise in bright ar ray; the
 gates of pearl streams in the count less host,

G/B C G/B Am7 G G/B C D F# G G/B D

name, O Je sus, be for ev er blest.
 thou in the dark ness drear, their one true light.
 King of glo ry pass es on his way.
 sing ing to Fa ther, Son, and Ho ly Ghost:

G/B G7 C Am7 G/B Em C G/B Am7 G/B Dsus D7 G

Al le lu ia! Al le lu ia!

WORDS: William W. How (1823-1897)
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

SINE NOMINE
 10.10.10. Alleluias

My Faith Looks Up to Thee 419

D A C# A7 D A A7 C# D A

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

D A E7 A D Em7 D G D Em7 D

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -

D G D Bm D G D A7 Bm Em7 A7 D

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

WORDS: Ray Palmer (1808-1887)
 MUSIC: Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

OLIVET
 6.6.4.6.6.4.

428 When Peace Like a River

C C C C G F E G7 G G7 C Am E7 Am C

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let this blest as -
 3 My sin—O, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought, my sin—not in
 4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled

Am G D G G7 C C E F A7 Dm D7

sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
 sur - ance con - trol: that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
 part but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
 back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -

G Am G C Dm7 C G C C Refrain N.C. C C E

say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 tate, and has shed his own blood for my soul. It is well
 more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is
 scend: "E - ven so"—it is well with my soul.

G N.C. G G7 C F C G G C C

with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 well with my soul,

WORDS: Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888)
 MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876)

VILLE DU HAVRE
 11.8.11.9.Ref.