

Subject: Memorial Service  
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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR \_\_\_\_\_

We have unified today, not to bid farewell to our beloved friend, \_\_\_\_\_, but to bid him/her godspeed in his/her new experience of life, for s/he lives! It is right at this time that we should look to Jesus, who in his perfect understanding of the spiritual truth of this “transition” which man calls death, left us a beautiful message of comfort which lives, and shall live through all the ages. We find his words of assurance in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of John: “Let not your hearts be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me....In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you”. It has been said that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. It is spirit, the mind, the soul, the intelligence...that part of us which is non-physical which enters the larger life. Nature has so beautifully designed us, that when by reason of any fact, the human body is no longer a fit or suitable instrument to house the soul, that the spirit, which already knows of its own immortality, quietly severs its connection and departs..”to inherit a residence afresh!”

Now let us turn our thoughts lovingly to God, that we may see the Truth through our pain; that we may see life for what it really is; that we too may accept the Comforter who knows our strength and courage; that we may be healed of any sense of sorrow.

(song)  
(eulogy)

Helen Keller once said, “I believe in the immortality of the soul because I have within me immortal longings”. Don’t we all feel this way? If \_\_\_\_\_ could communicate with us today, I am sure s/he would want to assure us that all is well with him/her. That s/he has graduated and this should be cause for celebration, not sorrow. I invite each of you to recognize that this is an opportunity to allow \_\_\_\_\_ to grow. S/He is now expressing life in a new and greater way. We could not possibly want to hold him/her back. It is our own loss we grieve, when someone we love moves out of our life: whether it is as a parent, when our child leaves the home; whether a friend moves away to take a job in another state; or when a loved one moves on to the next plane of existence – but we cannot and do not desire to hold anyone back from their good – from their new means of Self expression. I ask you to think upon these words:

I stand upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and moves softly out to the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and look at her until, at length, she hangs on like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and the sky come down to mingle with

one another. Then someone at my side exclaims: "look she's gone! Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull as she ever was. Her diminished size lies in me, not her. And at the very moment when someone at my side exclaims, "look, she's gone", there are other eyes eagerly watching her approach, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Look, she's coming home!" And that...my friends, is death.

It is the custom of our Church to grant a very special place for silent meditation, where one finds that in the silence, the spirit of God that is within us all, will speak, not in words perhaps, but in an inner realization. Let us now quietly realize together that the very present love of God has entered into this service, put Its arms around those who need strength and faith, and assures them that all is well. (Silence)

(Silence is broken with music – solo – optional)

We come from God, and to God we shall return. Infinite Love has made us all immortal, and all will live somewhere. Our friends who have gone but a short time ago, already unite with those they love, and they are consciously alive, awake and aware! Let us rejoice that we know these things: and let us thank God that we are witness to this higher reality. God has placed eternal horizons about humankind's life. Infinite Love has placed deep within our consciousness the knowledge that life moves into a new adventure beyond the grave. This knowledge is universal and is expressed in varying forms in all the great religions of the world. Just as simply as a needle points toward the North, so the needle of humankind's inner life points toward immortality. Paul, the great Apostle said, "What is seen is transitory and what is unseen is eternal". What a glorious promise! Join me please in a meditation of inspiration for \_\_\_\_\_ and for each of us.

The Lord is your Shepherd and you shall not want for Life and Love.  
God will for eternity maketh you to lie down in green pastures of abundant life.  
God will always lead you beside the still waters of peace.  
God will restore your awareness of Its True Self.  
God will always lead you in the path of your True Nature.  
Yes, though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you will know it to be a shadow only, and not evil, for you and the Father are one.  
God's infinite Love and Law shall comfort you, even in the presence of your fears.  
God has already prepared your new expression for you. Your knowing is now complete. Your cup is truly running over. Surely Goodness is your True Eternal Nature, and you are in the image and likeness of the Lord forever. (Pause)

May the Spirit of the Eternal Omni-Present, loving Father-Mother God guide and sustain \_\_\_\_\_ on his/her forward journey, and may God's great love

comfort and sustain those dear ones who gather here to wish him/her godspeed. May' God's understanding fill us all with a full realization of peace. Amen.

\_\_\_\_\_ family lovingly requests your presence for the (graveside service/reception) to be held \_\_\_\_\_. This concludes our service. God bless each of you.