

Subject: Memorials -- Transition Service

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Transition Service

Let us begin this memorial service by entering into a state of prayer, by closing our eyes as we think on these words:

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." "His place is found in peace. Let us now enter into this place."

Here in this secret place, we know that we live in the presence of Divine Love. It surrounds us, indwells us, and unites us. It sustains us, inspires us, and illumines us. Love is the action of God in our lives - the Infinite Givingness of God that meets our every need. In confidence we accept the action of God's Love in our thoughts right now. In the light of this love, we see that life is an eternal adventure, an unfolding of greater and better experiences; that evolution is ever onward, upward, forward, outward - expansive. And so we do now gratefully accept God's never - failing, sustaining love. And give thanks for it. AMEN.

Friends, we are gathered here at this time, not to mourn death; but to celebrate life. To celebrate the continued life of _____ - who made his/her transition on _____. We are here to honor, to give thanks for, and to express our love for that individualization of God-Life, that we have known as _____; and to acknowledge and affirm the Reality and Immortality of his/her life. Let us realize together that the Reality of _____ is his/her consciousness - that part of the Infinite Beauty and Love and Joy of God s/he made his own by so unifying with it that s/he became its expression.

This Soul, a perfect child of God, is now finding a more fitting expression in a higher level of experience. S/He has changed only in his/her relationship to us. We are all born of the One Spirit, a Spirit that is endless, deathless. This is the meaning of the continuity of the soul - the meaning of Life Everlasting. Certainly, we feel the pain of separation, for we are human. And surely, we feel sadness in our hearts. But we are also aware that this is not the end. Actually, this is a beginning of another life.

You will remember that the Apostle John, when someone dear to him, had passed on, went to Jesus and said: "My heart grieves. I am troubled. Why, oh, why is there such a thing as death?" And Jesus, with his perfect understanding of this transition which man has labeled "Death", but which Jesus labeled "Life Everlasting", said: "Let not your heart be troubled. In my Father's House are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you."

Yes, God is Life, - and cannot produce death. What we call death is merely a transition which we all make - it is part of our evolution - an event that takes place in the total process of life. Every experience in life is an opportunity to grow in wisdom and understanding. This can be so for us today as we let the Light of God's Wisdom tells us the Spiritual Truth that will ease our hearts and help us to grow into a deeper and wider understanding of Life.

That which we loved in _____ was never visible. That which in us responded to and loved him/her is not visible. It is the essence of him/her that we love – the sweetness - the goodness. Our contact with _____ was always in consciousness and that contact is still available to us now. We can not think of him/her without sensing that goodness. Isn't that communication -- the essence of what s/he is, entering our consciousness and evoking a response? The cause of sadness when someone passes into a new experience is that communication seems to be cut off. But is it? Not when we know that we are Spiritual beings living in a spiritual universe.

There is a poem that expresses what I am sure _____ is wanting to communicate to us today:

"Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond's glint on the snow;
I am the gentle autumn's rain.
I am sunlight on ripened grain.
When you awaken to the morning's hush.
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight;
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there, I did not die.

This service is not for _____. It is for us - to cause us to think about the Truth of the on-goingness of Life. Surely, that final enemy called "Death", is in reality, Fear and Doubt. These enemies must be overcome, for they limit the joy of living.

_____ was born in _____ years ago. S/He came to _____ in 19__ from _____. _____ leaves with us, _____

We have known _____ in many capacities in life, and we are gathered here today to lovingly and reverently pay tribute to him/her, to honor him/her.

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(Personal information about deceased as desired)

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Now it is time to release _____ into what we know to be his/her greater good – his/her more fuller expression. Because we love him/her, we are willing to support him/her with our faith and our growing consciousness of one-ness with God; we are willing, no matter how deeply we shall miss his/her physical presence, to let him/her go into this new unfoldment without trying to hold him/her back, because we would not want to dim the joy of his/her new experience. Let us do this with all the trust and faith that is expressed in this poem entitled: "The Rose Beyond The Wall."

Near a shady wall a rose once grew,
Budded and blossomed in God's free light,
Watered and fed by morning dew,
Shedding its sweetness day and night.
As it grew and blossomed, fair and tall,
Slowly rising to loftier height,
It came to a crevice in the wall
Through which there shone a beam of light.
Onward it crept with added strength,
With never a thought of fear and pride;
It followed the light through the crevice's length
And unfolded itself on the other side.
The light, the dew, the broadening view,
Were found the same as they were before.
It lost itself in beauties new,
Breathing fragrance more and more.
Shall claim of death cause us to grieve
And make our courage faint and fall?
Nay, let us faith and hope receive;
The rose still grows beyond the wall...
Scattering fragrances far and wide.
Just as it did in days of yore;
Just as it is on the other side;
Just as it will forever more!

To our loved one we say: "We see you as a child of God, full of grace and Truth, stepping forth into fullness of life, clothed anew according to the Father's Divine purpose. We do not bind you in our affection, but free you to experience your highest good. We know that God keeps watch between us and makes us to know our oneness in Spirit.

"We do not say "Goodbye", but offer you the handclasp of fellowship and faith, spanning the narrow space between our world and yours by the narrow bridge of Love. But we do say: 'Good day ... and God speed you on your way.'
And we give thanks for the privilege of having known this beloved child of God.

We go forth to live our lives just a little better because of him. And we rest secure in the knowledge that God's hand is stretched forth to him/her, enfolding him in eternal life and eternal love.

In peace and in joy, we let it be! And so it is!