



Private Memorial Service for a Loved One to be held virtually

Preparation

- Decide who will lead the service.
- Set up a meeting. You can use one of these apps or something else you know well:
 - Zoom (if the host has a business account so you do not have to worry about time limit.)
 - Microsoft Teams (free)
 - Go-to-Meeting (free)
 - Skype (free)
- Invite everyone you wish to attend and send them any log in information they will need.
- Invite each participants to have a picture of your loved one, an unlit candle and matches.
- The leader should also have a bell or chime to ring. (A wine glass or you-tube clip of a bell sounding also work!)
- Send a copy of this pdf to everyone you have invited.
- Choose a hymn and a final song from those listed and be ready to play them at the appropriate times.
- Ask for two people to be Reader 1 and Reader 2.

Invocation

Leader: Welcome to this time of remembrance of _____. Although we can't be present with one another in person, the love and grief we share binds us in honoring his/her memory. During our prayer, we will be invited to share a favorite memory or story that tells the unique way he/she has touched us. Storytelling has always been a sacred way of healing and connection to one another. It allows us to recognize the many, unrepeatable gifts each person has offered to our world. As we prepare to listen, let us welcome the presence of God and our loved one in a moment of silence.

Pause for silent prayer.

Sound the chime.

Leader: "I will call this to mind as a reason to hope. The favors of God are not exhausted. Each morning they are new, so great is God's mercy." (Lamentations 3)

All: In your mercy, be with us, O God.

Leader: "I am going to prepare a place for you, that where I am, you also may be." (John 14:3)

All. In your mercy, be with us, O God.

Hymn

- [You Are Mine](#) by David Haas:
- [To Where You Are](#), Josh Groban
- [Going Home - In loving Memory](#), Libera
- [Amazing Grace](#) performed by Andrea Bocelli and Allison Krauss

Reader 1: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Quiet prayer

Storytelling

Leader: Now we come to the heart of our service. I invite anyone who wishes to tell a story or a memory that shares the special way _____ has touched you. Stories can help us to cry, to laugh, to be inspired and to know we are not alone in our loss. If someone would like to begin, please hold your hand near your face so I can see you. After you share, please light your candle.

(Anyone who wishes may share a story or memory about the person who has died. The leader sounds the chime after each story is completed and the story-teller lights their candle.)

Intercessions

Leader: Loving God, we thank you for the precious gift of _____. Welcome them into the light of your face and give them joy forever. Listen to our prayer now, for one another and for all our sisters and brothers.

Reader 2: Our response is, "*Hear us, God of mercy.*"

- For all who suffer, that they may be held in peace, we pray....
- For all who mourn, that their hearts may be consoled and strengthened, we pray...
- For _____'s caregivers, in gratitude for their compassion and dedication, we pray...
- For our broken world, that we may open our hearts to your healing presence, we pray...
- For one another, that _____'s goodness and light may live on in us, we pray...

Closing Song

Leader: Let us together entrust our beloved _____ to God's keeping, and ask our tender God to console us.

- [May the Angel Choirs Come to Greet You \(Song of Farewell\)](#), Ernest Sands
- [How Can I Keep from Singing](#) performed by Eva Cassidy
- [Loving God](#) (to the tune of "Londonderry Air" or "Danny Boy")

(vs. 1) O loving God, we send our daughter/son home to you,
home to a place of everlasting love,
to join there with the angel choirs and blessed saints,
and to behold your glorious holy face.

(Chorus) Receive her/his soul and let eternal light shine,
Eternal light forever on her/his soul,
So she/he may be forever in your dwelling place,
And be at rest in peace until we meet her/him there.

(vs. 2) O loving God, have mercy and forgiveness
Upon your servant's now departed soul,
And may your grace and love enfold her/him evermore,
So she/he may dwell in paradise at last.