

A TYPICAL FUNERAL SERVICE OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION:

1. Welcome and opening comments
2. Words of faith and prayer
3. A selection of readings *
4. Hymn

Watch the numbers. Some are different to the book. Check on this

A TIME TO REMEMBER:

5. Reflection and comments about the one who has died*
- (6. A selection of readings and comments*)
7. A time of silence and concluding with prayer
8. Prayers for the family and friends*
9. (Hymn)

THE COMMITTAL:

10. Short reading, reflection, etc.
11. Committal
12. Closing prayers
13. (Hymn or Organ Music)

(* Can be taken by friends or members of the Family)

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

A reading from the book of Job

How I wish someone would remember my words
and record them in a book!
Or with a chisel carve my words in stone
and write them so that they would last for ever.
But I know there is someone in heaven
who will come at last to my defence
Even after my skin is wasted by disease,
although no longer in this body, I will see God.
I will see him with my own eyes, and he will not be a
stranger.

Job 19:23-27 TEV

2. A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

The Lord who created you says,
"Do not be afraid - I will save you.
I have called you by your name
- you are mine.
When you pass through deep waters I will be with you:
your troubles will not overwhelm you.
When you pass through fire, you will not be burnt:
the hard trials that come will not hurt you.
For I am the Lord your God, the holy one of Israel,
who saves you... and sets you free.
I will save your life
because you are precious to me
and because I love you and give you honour.
Do not be afraid - I am with you.
Isaiah 43:1-5

3. A reading from the prophet Ezekiel:

I, the sovereign Lord, tell you that I myself will look for
my sheep and take care of them in the same way as a shepherd
takes care of his sheep. I shall rescue them from wherever
they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I
myself will be the shepherd of my sheep; I myself will show
them where to rest - it is the Lord who speaks. I will look
for the lost one, bring back those that wander off, bandage
those that are hurt and make the weak strong; I shall watch
over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to
them.

Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-16

4. A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Lord, you are my God;
I will honour you and praise your name.
You have done amazing things;
you have faithfully carried out the plans you made
long ago.

The poor and the helpless have fled to you
and have been safe in times of trouble.
You give them shelter from storms

and shade from the burning heat.
...the Lord Almighty will prepare a banquet
for all the nations of the world
- a banquet of the richest food
and the finest wine.
He will suddenly remove the cloud of sorrow
that has been hanging over all the nations.
The sovereign Lord will destroy death for ever!
He will wipe away the tears from everyone's eyes
and take away the disgrace his people have suffered
throughout the world.
The Lord himself has spoken!

When it happens, everyone will say,
"He is our God! We have put our trust in the Lord!!
We have put our trust in Him,
and now we are happy and joyful because he has saved us"
Isaiah 25:1,4,6-9

5. A reading from the book of Lamentations:

I have forgotten
what health and peace and happiness are.
I have not much longer to live;
my hope in the Lord is gone.
The thought of my pain, my homelessness,
is bitter poison;
I think of it constantly and my spirit is depressed. Yet
hope returns when I remember this one thing:

The Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue,
fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise.
The Lord is all I have,
and so I put my hope in him.

The Lord is good to everyone who trusts in him,
so it is best for us to wait in patience -
to wait for him to save us.

Lamentations 3:17-26

6. A reading from the second book of Samuel:

The Lord caused the child
that Uriah's wife had borne to David
to become very ill.
David prayed to God that the child would get well.
He refused to eat anything, and every night he went into
his room and spent the night lying on the floor.
His court officials went to him and tried to make him get up,
but he refused and would not eat anything with them.

A week later the child died,
and David's officials were afraid
to tell him the news.
They said, "While the child was living
David wouldn't answer us when we spoke to him.
How can we tell him that his child is dead?
He might do himself some harm!"
When David noticed them whispering to each other
he realised that the child had died.
So he asked them, "Is the child dead?"

"Yes", he is." they answered.
David got up from the floor, had a bath,
combed his hair, and changed his clothes.
Then he went and worshipped
in the house of the Lord.
When he returned to the palace,
he asked for food and ate it
as soon as it was served.
"We don't understand this,"
his officials said to him.
"While the child was alive,
you wept for him and would not eat;
but as soon as he died, you got up
and ate!"

"Yes". David answered,
"I did fast and weep while he was still alive.
I thought the Lord might be merciful
to me and not let the child die.
But now that he is dead, why should I fast?
Could I bring the child back to life?
I will some day go where he is,
but he can never come back to me".

Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba.

2 Samuel 12:15b-24a

7. A reading from the book of Daniel:

The angel wearing linen clothes said,
"At that time the great angel Michael,
who guards your people, will appear.
Then there will be a time of troubles,
the worst since the nations
first came into existence.
When that time comes,
all the people of your nation
whose names are written in God's book
will be saved.
Many of those who have already died
will live again:
some will enjoy eternal life
and some will suffer eternal disgrace.
The wise leaders will shine with
all the brightness of the sky.
And those who have taught
many people to do what is right
will shine like the stars for ever.

Daniel 12:1-3

8. *A reading from the book of Proverbs:*

How hard it is to find a capable wife!
She is worth far more than jewels!
Her husband puts his confidence in her,
and he will never be poor.
As long as she lives she does him good
and never harm.

She is generous to the poor and needy.

She is strong and respected
and not afraid of the future.
She speaks with gentle wisdom.

Her children show their appreciation,
and her husband praises her.
He says "Many women are good wives,
but you are the best of them all."
Charm is deceptive and beauty disappears,
but a woman who honours the Lord
should be praised.
Give her credit for all she does.
she deserves the respect of everyone.

Proverbs 31:10-11,20,25-26,28-31

9. *A reading from the Psalms*

The Lord is my shepherd:
I have everything I need.
He lets me rest in fields of green grass
and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

He gives me new strength.
He guides me in the right paths,
as he has promised.
Even though I go through the deepest darkness,
I will not be afraid, Lord,
for you are with me.
Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.

You prepare a banquet for me,
where all my enemies can see me;
you welcome me as an honoured guest
and fill my cup to the brim.
I know that your goodness and love will
be with me all my life;
and your house will be my home as long as I live.

Psalm 23

An alternative reading of Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd: I have everything I need.
He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.
He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as He has promised.
Even though I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid,
LORD, for you are with me.
Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me. You prepare a banquet for me,
where all my enemies can see me;
you welcome me as an honoured guest and fill my cup to the brim.
I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life;
and Your house will be my home as long as I live.

Psalm 23

10. A reading from the Psalms

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
I will fear no one.
The Lord protects me from all danger;
I will never be afraid.

I have asked the Lord for one thing:
one thing only do I want:
to live in the Lord's house all my life,
to marvel there at his goodness,
and to ask for his guidance.
In times of trouble he will shelter me;
he will keep me safe in his Temple
and make me secure on a high rock.

Hear me, Lord, when I call to you!
Be merciful and answer me!

Teach me, Lord, to do what you want me to do,
and lead me along a safe path.

I know that I will live to see
the Lord's goodness in this present life.

Trust in the Lord.
Have faith, do not despair.
Trust in the Lord.

Psalm 27:1,4-5,7,11,13-14

11. A reading from the Psalms

:
O God, You have always been God.
Long before the earth was formed,
Long after it ceases to exist,
You have been and You shall always be.

With you there is no beginning or end;
time is not measured by decades or centuries.
Our precious lives, so important to us,
are but fleeting shadows to You.
And they are so full of trouble and conflict
and so marked by sin and failure.

O God, break into our short span of existence
with Your eternal love and grace.
May our days of despair
be interspersed with hours of joy.
Help us to see something of Your will and purpose
for our creation
and discover some meaning
for our brief and trouble-fraught
appearance in this world.
Imprint upon us Your brand of ownership
and place us
within Your plan and purpose for our lives.

Psalm 90

12. A reading from the Psalms

I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From whence does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
 who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved,
 he who keeps you will not slumber
Behold, he who keeps Israel
 will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
 the Lord is your shade
 on your right hand.
The sun shall not smite you by day,
 nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
 he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
 Your going out and your coming in
 From this time forth and for evermore.

Psalm 121 (RSV)

An alternative reading of Psalm 121:

Where should I look for help in my need?
To majestic mountains that probe our skies
 Or to giants of industry that hem in our
 cities?
To satellites that circle our world
 or to computers that store up our
 knowledge?

The answer to my problems
 and the fulfilment of my needs
 must come from God Himself,
 from Him who created skies and mountains
 and mankind who dwell in their midst.
He is a great God who knows our every desire,
 whoses watchful eye is upon us night and
 day.
We can make no move without His knowledge.
His concern for His children is constant;
 His love for them is eternal.

And thus the Lord will keep you,
 shielding you from the forces of evil
 as a shade tree shields you
 from the rays of the blazing sun.

He does care for you,
 and He will fight with you
 against the enemies of your soul.
Whether you be coming or going,
 He knows the course you take,
 and He will go before you.

Psalm 121

13. A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.

He sets the time for birth and the
time for death,
the time for planting and the time
for pulling up,
the time for killing and the time for
healing,
the time for tearing down and the
time for building.

He sets the time for sorrow and the
time for joy,
the time for mourning and the time
for dancing,

the time for making love and the time
for not making love,
the time for kissing and the time for
not kissing.

He sets the time for finding and the
time for losing,
the time for saving and the time for
throwing away,
the time for tearing and the time for
mending,
the time for silence and the time for
talk.

He sets the time for love and the time
for hate,
the time for war and the time for
peace.

What do we gain from all our work?

I know the heavy burdens that God has laid on us. He has set the right time for everything. He has given us a desire to know the future, but never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what he does. So I realise that all we can do is to be happy and do the best we can while we are still alive.

All of us should eat and drink and enjoy what we have worked for. It is God's gift.

I know that everything God does will last for ever. You can't add anything to it or take anything away from it. And one thing God does is to make us fear him. Whatever happens or can happen has already happened before, God makes the same thing happen again and again.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 15

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

14. *A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Church in Rome:*

Who then, can separate us from the love of Christ?

Can trouble do it,
or hardship or persecution or hunger
or poverty or danger or death?

No, in all these things we have complete victory
through him who loved us!
For I am certain that nothing
can separate us from his love;
neither death nor life,
either angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers,
neither the present nor the future,
neither the world above nor the world below =
there is nothing in all creation
that will ever be able to separate us
from the love of God which is ours
through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35,27-39

15. *A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome:*

By our baptism we were buried with Christ
and shared his death, in order that,
just as Christ was raised from death
by the glorious power of the Father,
so also we might live a new life.

For since we have become one with him
in dying as he did, in the same way
we shall be one with him
by being raised to life as he was.

Since we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him
For we know that Christ has been raised from death
and will never die again -
death will no longer rule over him.

Your gain is a life fully dedicated to him,
and the result is eternal life.
For sin pays its wage - death;
but God's free gift is eternal life
in union with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:4-5,8-9,22b-23

16. *A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth*

I may be able to speak the languages
of people and even of angels,
but if I have no love,
my speech is no more than a noisy gong
or a clanging bell

I may have the gift of inspired preaching;
I may have all knowledge
and understand all secrets;

I may have all the faith needed to move mountains -
but if I have no love, I am nothing.

I may give away everything I have,
and even give up my body to be burnt -
but if I have no love, this does me no good.

Love is patient and kind;
it is not jealous or conceited or proud;
love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable;
love does not keep a record of wrongs;
love is not happy with evil,
but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up;
and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

Love is eternal. 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a.

17. A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Thessalonica

We want you to know the truth about those who have died,
so that you will not be sad, as those who have no hope.
We believe that Jesus died and rose again,
and so we believe that God will take back with Jesus
those who have died believing in him.

What we are teaching you now is the Lord's teaching:
we who are alive on the day the Lord comes
will not go ahead of those who have died.
There will be the shout of command,
the archangel's voice, the sound of God's trumpet,
and the Lord himself will come down from heaven.
Those who have died believing in Christ
will rise to life first;
then we who are living at that time
will be gathered up along with them
in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
And so we will always be with the Lord.

So then, encourage one another with these words.
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

18. A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth:

Someone will ask,
"How can the dead be raised to life?"
What kind of body will they have?"

This is how it will be when the dead are raised to life.
When the body is buried it is mortal;
when raised it will be immortal.
When buried, it is ugly and weak;
when raised, it will be beautiful and strong.
When buried, it is a physical body;
when raised, it will be a spiritual body.

Listen to this secret truth:
we shall not all die, but when the last trumpet sounds, we
shall all be changed in an instant, as quickly as the
blinking of an eye. For when the trumpet sounds, the dead
will be raised,
never to die again, and we shall all be changed.
For what is mortal must be changed into what is immortal;
what will die must be changed into what cannot die.

So when this takes place...
then scripture will come true:

"Death is destroyed; victory is complete!"

Where, Death is your victory?
Where, Death is your power to hurt?

Death gets its power to hurt from sin,
and sin gets its power from the Law.
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ!
1 Corinthians 15:35,42-44,51-57

19. A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth:

Let us give thanks to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes!

He helps us in all our troubles,
so that we are able to help others
who have all kinds of troubles,
using the same help that we ourselves
have received from God.

Just as we have a share in Christ's many sufferings,
so also through Christ we share in God's great help.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

20. A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth:

The scripture says, "I spoke because I believed".
In the same spirit of faith we also speak because we believe.
We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus to life,
will also raise us up with Jesus and take us
into his presence.

For this reason we never become discouraged.
Even though our physical being is gradually wasting away,
yet our spiritual being is being renewed day after day.
And this small and temporary trouble we suffer
will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory,
much greater than the trouble.

For we know that when this tent we live in -
our body here on earth - is torn down,
God will have a house in heaven for us to live in,
a home he himself has made, which will last forever.

God is the one who has prepared us for this change,
and he gave us his Spirit as the guarantee
of all that he has in store for us.

For all of us must appear before Christ,
to be judged by him.
Each one will receive what he deserves
according to everything he has done, good or bad,
in his bodily life.
2 Corinthians 4:13-14,17. 5:1,5,10

21. A reading from the second letter to Timothy:

As for you, be strong through the grace that is ours
in union with Jesus Christ.
Remember Jesus Christ, who was raised from death, who was a
descendant of David,
as is taught in the Good News I preach.
Because I preach the Good News, I suffer
and am even chained like a criminal
But the word of God is not in chains,
and so I endure everything
for the sake of God's chosen people,
in order that they too may obtain the salvation
that comes through Jesus Christ and brings eternal glory.

This is a true saying:
"If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.
If we continue to endure, we shall also rule with him.
If we deny him, he also will deny us.
If we are not faithful, he remains faithful,
because he cannot be false to himself.
2 Timothy 2:1,8-13

22. A reading from the first letter of Peter to the early Christians:

Let us give thanks
to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
Because of his great mercy he gave us new life
by raising Jesus Christ from death.
This fills us with a living hope,
and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings
that God keeps for his people.
He keeps them for you in heaven,
where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away.
They are for you,
who through faith are kept safe by God's power for
salvation
which is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary
for you to be sad for a while
because of the many kinds of trials you suffer.
Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine.
Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire;
and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold,
must also be tested, so that it may endure.
Then you will receive praise and glory and honour
on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed.

You love him, although you have not seen him,
and you believe in him, although you do not see him.
So you rejoice with a great and glorious joy
which words cannot express,
because you are receiving the salvation of your souls,
which is the purpose of your faith in him.

23. A reading from the book of Revelation:

I had a vision in which... I saw a great white throne and the one who sits on it.
Earth and heaven fled from his presence and were seen no more.
And I saw the dead, great and small alike, standing before the throne.
Books were opened, and then another book was opened, the book of the living.
The dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. Then the sea gave up its dead. Death and the world of the dead also gave up the dead they held. And all were judged according to what they had done. The death and the world of the dead were thrown into the lake of fire... whoever did not have his name written in the book of the living was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15

24. A reading from the book of Revelation:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The first heaven and the first earth disappeared, and the sea had vanished.
And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband.
I heard a loud voice speaking from the throne: "Now God's home is with mankind! He will live with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared".

Then the one who sits upon the throne said,
"And now I make all things new!"
He also said to me,
"Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted."
And he said,
"It is done! I am the first and the last, the beginning and the end.
To anyone who is thirsty I will give the right to drink from the spring of the water of life without paying for it.
Whoever wins the victory will receive this from me:
I will be his God, and he will be my child."

Revelation 21:1-7

25. A reading from the book of Revelation:

I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and earth had passed away,
and there was no longer any sea.

I saw the holy city new Jerusalem
coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city:
for its temple is the Lord God
the Almighty and the Lamb.

The city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it:
for the glory of God illuminates it,
and the Lamb is its' light.

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city:
and the servants of God shall worship before the throne.

They shall see God face to face:
and bear the name of their God upon their foreheads.

There shall be no more night:
nor will they need the light of lamp or sun,

For the Lord God will give them light:
and they shall reign for ever and ever.

To the One who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb:
be blessing and honour, glory and might
for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 21:1,2,22,23; 22:3-5; 5:13

GOSPEL READINGS

26. A reading from Matthew's Gospel:

Jesus said:

Do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive,

or about clothes for your body.

After all, isn't life worth more than food?

And isn't the body worth more than clothes?

Look at the birds flying around:

they do not sow seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns;

yet your Father in heaven takes care of them!

Aren't you worth much more than birds?

Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it?

So don't start worrying:

"Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes?"

Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things.

Instead.

be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God

and with what he requires of you,

and he will provide you with all these other things.

Matthew 6:25-27,31-33

27. A reading from Mark's Gospel:

Some people brought children to Jesus

for him to place his hands on them

but the disciples scolded the people.

When Jesus noticed this, he was angry

and said to his disciples,

"Let the children come to me, and do not stop them,

because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it".

Then he took the children in his arms,

placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

28. A reading from Matthew's Gospel:

When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him,

he will sit on his royal throne, and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him.

Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

He will put the righteous people on his right and the others on his left.

Then the King will say to the people on his right.

"Come, and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for

you ever since the creation of the world.
I was hungry and you fed me,
thirsty and you gave me a drink;
I was a stranger and you received me in your homes,
naked and you clothed me;
I was sick and you took care of me,
in prison and you visited me".

The righteous will answer him.
"When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you a drink?
When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our
homes,
or naked and clothe you?
When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?"

The King will reply,
"I tell you,
Whenever you did this for one of the least important brothers
or sisters of mine,
you did it for me!"

Then he will say to those on his left,
"Away from me, you that are under God's curse...
I tell you,
whenever you refused to help one of these least important
ones, you refused to help me.
These then will be sent off to eternal punishment, but the
righteous will go to eternal life."

Matthew:25:31-41a,45b-46

29. A reading from John's Gospel:

Jesus said:

"I am telling you the truth:
a grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain
unless it is dropped into the ground and dies.
If it does die, then it produces many grains.
Whoever loves his own life will lose it;
whoever hates his own life in this world
will keep it for life eternal.
Whoever wants to serve me must follow me,
so that my servant will be with me where I am.
And my Father will honour anyone who serves me."

John 12:22-26

30. A reading from John's Gospel

Do not be worried and upset Jesus told them.
"Believe in God and believe also in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house,
and I am going to prepare a place for you.
I would not tell you this if it were not so.
And after I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back and take you to myself,
so that you will be where I am.

Thomas said to him,
"Lord, we do not know where you are going;
so how can we know the way to get there?"

Jesus answered him,
"I am the way, the truth and the life;
no one goes to the Father except by me.

Peace is what I leave with you;
it is my own peace that I give you.
I do not give it as the world does.
Do not be worried and upset;
do not be afraid.

John 14:1-3,5-6,27

31. A reading from the Gospel of John:

Jesus said to the Jews,
'I tell you solemnly,
the son can do nothing by himself;
He can do only what he sees the Father doing:
and whatever the Father does the Son does too.
For the Father loves the Son
and shows him everything he does himself,
and will show him even greater things than these,
works that will astonish you.
Thus, as the Father raises the dead and gives them life,
so the Son gives life to anyone he chooses;
for the Father judges no one;
he has entrusted all judgment to the Son,
so that all may honour the Son as they honour the Father.
Whoever refuses honour to the Son refuses honour to the Father who sent him.
I tell you most solemnly, whoever listens to my words,
and believes in the one who sent me, has eternal life;
without being brought to judgement
he has passed from death to life.
I tell you most solemnly,
the hour will come—in fact it is here already—
when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,
and all who hear will live.

John 5: 19 - 25

NON BIBLICAL READINGS

1. SORROW

It hurts deep down inside.
One feels diminished,
Less than he has been.
Empty,
Bereft -
Forlorn and incomplete.
But if someone is there
To share the feeling
It becomes endurable
And in the scheme of things
A time of being
That includes great emotion
And thus a time of closeness,
Growing and becoming someone more
Than we have been before.

Shirley Holzer Jeffery

From Death: The Final Stage of Growth. E Kubler-Ross (p141)

2. IN MEMORIAM

We sprinkle the ashes -
All that tangibly remains of ____
But thank God for the intangibles -
The impact of His/her life on ours.
We remember:
- the smile
- the frown
- the quizzical look
- the love
- the courage
- the hurt
- the sorrow
- the significant moments
- the fun times
- the searching times
- the moments of risk
- the great time of affirmation

As long as we live
We will bear the imprint
of that influence.
He/She opened many doors for us -
Doors to whole sets of meanings.
We will forever be sensitised
As to the importance of life.
Because of ____ we will live differently.

Shirley Holzer Jeffery

From Death: The Final Stage of Growth. E Kubler-Ross (p141)

3. LOVE - GRATITUDE

The agony is so great ...
And yet I will stand it.
Hod I not loved so very much
I would not hurt so much.
But goodness knows I would not
Want to diminish that precious life
By one fraction of an ounce.
I will hurt, and I will be grateful to the hurt
For it bears witness to
The depth of our meanings,

Shirley Holzer Jeffrey

And for that I will be Eternally grateful from Death: the final Stage of Growth by K.Kubler-Ross
P.142

4.

Not by appointment does one meet Sorrow;
it comes out of the complexities of human belonging-
swift with dark foreboding - making poorer,
or richer. Who can say?
Holding unnoticed silences apart,
unnoticed contentments,
it breaks the floodgates
of one's whole being.
Easy words then slip from one's shoulders
like a slight shawl;
only Faith in God that goes deep,
goes deep enough;
for He suffered, too,
and alone knows how the heal,
to sift from grief
eternal victory, eternal gain.

- Rita Snowden

from When Sorrow Comes (p.13)

5.

Whether we are young or old,
Our destiny, our being's heart and home
Is with infinitude ...
With Hope it is, Hope that can never die,
Effort and Expectation and Desire,
And something evermore about to be!

- R. Snowden

from When Sorrow Comes (p.33)

6.

People talk to me with long faces. "Your father is dead?
how sad!"

How gladly
My father gave up all he had,
Quietly, in love, to stranger and friend,
To his own there was no end of his giving.

Please don't talk to me with long faces.
My father lives on in radiant joy,
So clear,
Not fearing,
We will, in our turn, embrace death;
Eager to taste of that joy in living.

How blind t heaven
Are those who talk to me with long faces.

Anon

R. Snowden

from When Sorrow Comes (p.78)

7.

He was my father, and in a rare way,
friend of all about
in the quiet community of his day;
a neighbourly man,
when trees shouted in gales,

or sickness came.

Write these words for one with few words to spare,
whose hands spoke for him =
ready at any hour his skills to share -
a neighbourly man,
if birds or beasts had need,
or days were long.

As each season came with its brief embrace,
he welcomed its gifts
made know among all in that well-beloved place;
a neighbourly man,
where grass and gardens
rejoiced the heart.

In Sorrow and Joy, all trusted his aid,
and his country fun,
till the day came his old body was laid -
a neighbourly man -
amongst the Living,
his long sharing through.

R. Snowden
from When Sorrow Comes (p.80)

8.

God's world is conceived in hope.
Dawn follows darkness,
Spring follows the leaf-strewn way of Winter,
the world is born anew in every child,
the Resurrection lies just beyond
what we call death.

R. Snowden
from When Sorrow Comes (p.83)

9.

Let me not pray to be sheltered from
dangers but to be fearless in facing them.
Let me not beg for the stilling of my pain
but for the heart to conquer it.
Let me not look for allies in life's battlefield
but to my own strength.
Let me not crave in anxious fear to be saved
but hope for the patience to win my freedom.
Grant me that I may not be a coward,
feeling your mercy in my success alone;
but let me find the grasp of your hand in my failure.

Rabindranath Tagore
from Fruit Gathering reprinted in On Death and Dying by E.Kubler-Ross p.1

10.

I have got my leave. Bid me farewell, my brothers!
I bow to you all and take my departure.
Here I give back the keys of my door - and I give up
all claims to my house. I only ask for last kind words
from you. We were neighbours for long, but I received
more than I could give. Now the day has dawned and the
lamp that lit my dark corner is out,
A summons has come and I am ready for my journey.

Tagore from Gitanjali XCIII

Reprinted from On Death and Dying By E. Kubler-Ross p.99

11.

The father came back from the funeral rites,
His boy of seven stood at the window, with eyes wide open and
a golden amulet hanging from his neck, full of thoughts too
difficult for his age. His father took him in his arms and
the boy asked him, "Where is Mother?" "In heaven", answered
his father, pointing to the sky.

The boy raised his eyes to the sky and long gazed in silence.
His bewildered mind sent abroad into the night the question,
"Where is heaven?"
No answer came: and the stars seemed like the burning tears
of that ignorant darkness.

Tagore from The Fugitive Part II,XX1

Reprinted in On Death and Dying by E. Kubler-Ross p.139

12.

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day. "Does it mean
having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"
"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a
thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a
long, long time
not just to play with, but REALLY loves you,
then you become REAL.
It doesn't happen all at once. You become.
It takes a long time.
Generally, by the time you are REAL,
most of your hair and been loved off,
and your eyes drop out
and you get loose in the joints and very shabby.
But these things don't matter at all
because once you are REAL you can't be ugly,
except to people who don't understand."

From The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

13.

I share with you the agony of your grief. The anguish of
your heart find echoes in my own. I know I cannot enter all
you feel
nor bear with you the burden of your pain.
I can but offer what my love does give:
the strength of caring,
the warmth of one who seeks to understand the silent
storm-swept bareness of so great a loss.

This I do in quiet ways,
that on your lonely path you may not walk alone.

Thurman

from Meditations of the Heart (Reprinted in Bereaved Parents NZ National Newsletter No. 3, 1986)

14.

The deeper that sorrow carves into your being,
the more joy you can contain.
Is not the cup that holds your wine
the very cup that was burned in the potter's oven?
And is not the lute that soothes your spirit
the very wood that was hollowed with knives?
When you are joyous, look deep into your heart

and you shall find it is only that which has given you
sorrow that is giving you joy.
When you are sorrowful, look again in your heart and you
shall see that in truth
you are weeping for that which has been your delight.
from The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran

15.

You would know the secret of death.
But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of
life:
The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot
unveil the mystery of light.
If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your
heart wide unto the body of life.
For life and death are one,
even as the river and the sea are one.

In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent
knowledge of the beyond;
And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of
spring.
Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity.
from The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran

16. GIVING

Then said a rich man. Speak to us of Giving.
And he answered:
You give but little when you give your your possessions. It
is when you give of yourself that you truly give. For what
are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear
you may need them tomorrow? And tomorrow, what shall
tomorrow bring...?

There are those who give little of the much which they have -
and they give it for recognition and their hidden desire
makes their gifts unwholesome.
And there are those who have little and give it all.
These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and
their coffer is never empty.
There are those who give with pain, and that pain is their
baptism.
And there are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor
do they seek joy, nor give mindfulness of virtue;
They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its
fragrance into space.
Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from
behind their eyes He smiles upon the earth.
Kahlil Gibran

17.

Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your
understanding.
Even as the stone of the fruit must break,
that its heart may stand in the sun,
so must you know pain.
And could you keep your heart in wonder at the daily miracles
of your life,
your pain would not seem less wondrous than your joy;
and you would accept the seasons of your heart,
even as you have always accepted the seasons that pass over your fields.

And you would watch with serenity through the winters of your grief.
from The Prophet by Gibran

18.

Strange is our situation here on earth
Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why,
yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose.
From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one
thing we do know:
that we are here for the sake of others -
above all for those upon whose smile and well-being our own
happiness depends,
and also for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we
are connected by a bond of sympathy.
Many times a day I realise how much my own outer and inner
life is built on the labours of others, both living and dead,
and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in
return as much as I have received.
The ideals which have always gone before me and filled me
with the joy of living are goodness, beauty and truth.
(To make a goal of comfort or happiness has never appealed to
me;
A system of ethics built on this basis would be sufficient
only for a herd of cattle..
The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious.
It is the source of all true art and science.
He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer
pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead;
his eyes are closed.)

It is enough for me to contemplate the mystery of conscious
life
perpetuating itself through all eternity,
to reflect upon the marvellous structures of the universe
which we can dimly perceive,
and to try humbly to comprehend even a infinitesimal part of
the intelligence manifested in nature.

Albert Einstein

19.

That person is a success -
who has lived well, laughed often and loved much;
who has gained the respect of intelligent people
and the love of children;
who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;
who leaves the world better than he found it;
who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty
who looked for the best in others
and gave the best he had.

Anon

From Funeral For a Friend M.Barnes

20.

Death is nothing at all -
I have only slipped away into the next room.
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other,
that we still are.
Call me by my own familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way we always used.
Put no difference in your tone;
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me; pray for me
let my name be the household word it always was.
Let it be spoken without effort,
without the ghost of a shadow in it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was:
there is absolutely unbroken continuity
What is death but a negligible accident?
Why should I be out of your mind
just because I am out of your sight?

I am waiting for you, for an interval,
somewhere very near
Just around the corner.
All is well, nothing is past nothing is lost
One brief moment
and all will be as it was before.

Henry Scott Holland 1847-1918
Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral

21.

His/Her life has touched my life, and
in his/her life I have seen Christ.

Because he/she accepted me
because his/her good kindness has encircled me
Christ's love has grasped me too.

Because of your being, I know it's true
We are Christ's to one another.
He/She was a sign pointing to the possibilities in this life.
Now, because I have seen his/her walking as the instrument
of God's love among his children,
I see new possibilities for my life.

Now, I can be a Christ
the instrument of God's love to those I will meet today.
Sacrificing self in joy,
to live in love and hope - Eternal Life! - no matter what.
Jacquelyn Palmer - adapted.

22.

I'll lend you for a little time
a child of mine, He said.
For you to love the while she lives,
and mourn for when she's dead.
It may be six or seven years, or twenty-two or three,
But will you, 'til I call her back,
take care of her for me?
She'll bring her charms to gladden you,
and should her stay be brief
You'll have her lovely memories,
as solace for your grief.

I cannot promise she will stay
since all from earth return,
But there are lessons taught down there
I want this child to learn.
I've looked the wide world over

in my search for teachers true
And from crowds that throng life's lanes,
I have selected you.
Now will you give her all your love
nor think the labour vain,
Nor hate me when I come to call
to take her back again?

I fancied that I heard them say
"Dear Lord, Thy will be done!
For all the joy thy child shall bring,
the risk of grief we'll run.
We'll shelter her with tenderness.
we'll love her while we may,
And for the happiness we've known,
forever grateful stay;
But should the angels call for her
much sooner than we've planned
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes,
and try to understand.

Anon

23.
Spring, and the land lies fresh green beneath a yellow sun.
We walked the land together, you and I and never knew what
future days would bring.
Will you often think of me, when flowers burst forth each
year?
When the earth begins to grow again?
Some say death is so final, but my love for you can never
die.
Just as the sun once warmed our hearts, let this love touch
you some night, when I am gone, and loneliness comes -
before the dawn begins to scatter your dreams away.

Summer, and I never knew a bird could sing so sweet and
clear, until they told me I must leave you for a while.
I never knew the sky could be so deep a blue,
until I knew I could not grow old with you
but better to be loved by you, than to have lived a million
summers, and never known your love.
Together, et us, you and I remember the days and nights, for
eternity.

Fall, and the earth begins to die,
and leaves turn golden brown upon the trees.
Remember me, too, in autumn, for I will walk with you, as of
old, along a city sidewalk at evening-time,
though I cannot hold you by the hand.

Winter, and perhaps someday there may be another fireplace,
another room,
with crackling fire and fragrant smoke, and turning,
suddenly, we will be together, and I will hear your laughter
and touch your face, and hold you close again. But, until
then, if loneliness should seek you out, some winter night,
when snow is falling down, remember, though death has come to
me, love will never go away!

Orville Kelly

from Death the Final Stage of Growth - E.Kubler-Ross (p.143)
Written to his wife while he was dying of cancer.

24.

It is a dawn with no colour, while my loved one sleeps in
quiet pools of shadow. I think of you ...

I am old enough to have memories
of you when you were younger than I am now.
I am made of you, your differences argue in me.
I recognise your ways in mine, and how your love-harmony
helps to complete me. I sense its presence in my capacity to
love,
to laugh, to create.

Sometimes I want to erase your markings off me..
But worse, I see the best of you
failing in me; not carried on,
much ends with me. It saddens me,
the falling short; whole devotions
of your lives continue poorly in me.

I am grown from you. Times I look at you
distantly, like photographs,
people I know. But it is unfair.
There is a link, an embrace, a real touch
that continues. Of all the little things you did for
me..

And now when I think of your own real name
I see your whole life
as if I knew you complete ...
Suddenly, fiercely, I
feel protective of you,
and this can be your irony as parents.

Mother/Father, perhaps there will be a day
when we meet again, but today
I remember how you walked with me
together. Marilyn MacCanon Brown
from Alive Now Nov/Dec '77

25.

A tangi puri:

Kua taka he puti puti ki te wai
Kua puaretia ki te ao, i tena ataahua
Kua tere ki runga ki te tai pari e
Kua kuaheketia ki te moana

A flower has fallen into the water
Its petals spread wide to show their beauty to the world
It is caught by the falling tide
And carried to the ocean of our God Rex Bloomfield

from Windowed - What Now? Ed. by V.Austin & C.Clark-Smith (p.23)

26.

And what does it mean to mourn?
I asked the multitude.
And an old man stepped forward.

To mourn, he said, is to be given a second heart.
It is to care so deeply
that you show your ache in person.

To mourn is to be unashamed of tears.
It is to be healed
and broken
and built-up
all in the same moment.

Blessed are you if you can minister to others
with a heart that feels
with a heart that hurts
with a heart that loves
and blessed are you if you can minister to others with a
heart that serves.
and a heart that sees the need before it's spoken.

To mourn is to forget yourself for a moment
and get lost in someone else's pain
and then,
to find yourself
in the very act of getting lost.

To mourn is to be an expert
in the miracle
of being careful with another's pain.

It is to be full of the willingness
of forever reaching out to
and picking up
and holding carefully
those who hurt.

To mourn is to sing with the dying
and to be healed
by the song
and the death.

Marcina Wiederkehr O.S.B.
from Seasons of Your Heart (p.80)

27.
They have become bright stars in the heavens
The have joined the firmament of the living God
The saints who through our Saviour's death
Traverse the route beyond death, to vibrant life
The knowing, the loving, the ever-present truth
Of life greater than Death,
here, and beyond present toughing
For this we praise you our Almighty Redeemer.
The Invocation Kua whetarangitia ratou
from Widowed - What Now? by V.Austin & C.Clark-Smith (p.212)

28.
Once again death's mystery holds us in its arms
and we are memorialized with a thousand things
that ...(this person) was, and is,
and now always will be.

We celebrate this journey with a quiet shyness
always a little uncomfortable with a mystery so deep.
But with hearts full of life
we hold out our hands
to receive the mystery of death -
the gift of death - and sometimes we weep.

Eyes that see all the way,
now proclaim to us the new truth
"When you stand close enough to death
it isn't death anymore
it's new name is life"

There is really no death
for those caught up in God,
only a moment of passing over
a moment of folding up your tent
a hard, painful, giving-up moment.

It is always painful to let go.

Today we praise a man/woman
who has let go ...
Today we praise a God
who has asked him/her to let go...
Marcina Wiederkehr O.S.B.
from Sessions of Your Heart (p.123)

29.

Let me sleep for my soul is overflowing with love.
Let me rest.
Light the candles and burn incense around my bed and scatter
leaves of jasmine and roses over my body.

Dry your tears my friends,
And raise your heads as the flowers
Raise their crowns to greet the dawn.

Lament me not, but sing songs of joy
Talk not of my departure with sighs in
your hearts; close your eyes and you
will see me forever.

I have passed a mountain peak and my
soul is soaring in the firmament of
complete and unbound freedom.

The songs of the waves and the hymns
of the streams are scattered, and the
voices of the throngs reduced to silence;
And I can hear naught but the music of
Eternity in exact harmony with the
spirit's desires

I am clothed in full whiteness
I am in comfort. I am in peace.

A Tribute to Terry

30. WE ARE THE WORLD

There comes a time when we heed a certain call
When the world must come together, as one.
There are people dying, oh and it's time to lend a hand
To light the greatest gift of all.
We could go on pretending day by day
That someone somewhere will make a change.
We are all a part of God's great big family
And the truth you know Love is all we need.

We are the world, we are the children,
We are the ones who make a brighter day
So let's start giving.
There's a choice we're making,
We're saving our own lives
It's true we make a better day just you and me.

Oh send them your heart so they know that someone cares,
And that life will be stronger and free.
As God has shown us by turning stone to bread
And so we must all lend a helping hand.

We're down and out, there seems no hope at all,
But we just believe there's nowhere we can fall
Just realise that the dying can only call
When we stand together as one

We are the world, we are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day
So let's start giving.
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we make a better day just you and me.

SERVICE SELECTIONS

1.
We find a place for what we lose,
Although we know that after such a loss
the acute stage of mourning will subside,
we all know that we shall remain inconsolable
No matter what may fill the gap,
even if it be filled complete,
It never the less remains something else. Freud

From a letter to a friend whose son had died. Reprinted in
Bereavement Support Group Magazine.

2.
As we accept life, so must we accept death -
for some sooner for some later -
as one of the unchanging laws of nature.
With sadness, but without bitterness or resentment,
we must today recognise this universal law and release
from this life.
Above all, let us not dwell on what we have lost,
but rather remember all we have enjoyed,
all that has enriched our lives,
all that we have shared with ...

These days we tend not to erect grand monuments to our dead.
But what finer memorial could anyone have than that those who
knew and loved him should consciously identify his/her
qualities and do their best to adopt these values as an
example into their lives?
To do this is to provide him with a memorial that is living
and everlasting,
and keeps alive all that was noblest and best on him

3.

Today we must say goodbye to ...
In gratitude for his/her life and the privilege of sharing in it, tenderly and reverently we return his/her body to the elements from which it came. If we can profit from his/her examples; if we can learn from his/her mistakes; if we can try to live just a little better and more fully for having known him/her, this will give continuing purpose to his/her life, and will be a living memorial. May you find joy and comfort in your many memories, and peace in your hearts.

4.

For me - to have made one soul
the better for my birth;
To have added but one flower
to the garden of the earth;
To have struck one blow for truth
in the daily fight with lies;
To have done one deed of right
in the face of calumnies;
To have sown in the souls of others
one thought that will not die;
To have been a link in the chain of life -
shall be immortality. E. Hatch
from Funeral For a Friend by M. Barnes (p.17)

5.

Depart Comrade! Thou, redeemed from pain,
Shalt sleep the sleep that kings desire in vain:
Not thine the sense of loss
But lo, for us the void
That never shall be filled again.
Not thine, but ours, the grief.

All pain is fled from thee
And we are weeping in thy stead;
Tears for the mourners who are left behind
Peace everlasting for the quiet dead.
Lucretius
from Funeral For a Friend by M. Barnes (p.19)

6.

Lord, someone I love
is lost to me.
Will you reach out
and cradle this one
in your almighty hands
Those hands that threw
and scattered worlds
and suns to blaze
in your sky?
Will you surround
this one with love
as great as Jesus felt
for Lazarus in the tomb,
and reach
and lift this one
into your joy?
Lord, what I cannot do,
do for me. Amen
Jean Hogan Dudley
from Alive Now Nov/Dec 1977 p.24

7.

She is made one with nature, there is heard
Her voice in all Earth's music, from the moan
Of thunder, to the song of night's sweet bird;
She is a presence to be felt and known
In darkness and in light, from herb and stone;
She is a portion of the loveliness
Which once she made more lovely.

Adapted from Shelley

From Funeral For a Friend M.Barnes p.7

8.

I have got my leave. Bid me farewell, my brother!
I bow to you all and take my departure.
Here I give back the keys of my door - and I give up
all claims to my house. I only ask for last kind words
from you. We were neighbours for long, but I received more
than I could give. Now the day has dawned and the lamp that
lit my dark corner is out,
A summons has come and I am ready for my journey.

Tagore from Gitanjali XCIII

Reprinted from On Death and Dying by E.Kubler-Ross p.99

9.

I fancied that I heard them say
"Dear Lord, Thy will be done!
For all the joy thy child shall bring,
the risk of grief we'll run.
We'll shelter her with tenderness.
we'll love her while we may,
And for the happiness we've