

*Remembrance of our
Beloved Departed*



And I saw the boat
which carries souls across the river
and the name of that boat was love.

St. John of the Cross.

Ritual of Remembering



Centrepiece

*Coloured cloths to drape the sacred space
candles*

other appropriate symbols suitable to the occasion

*Soft reflective music
as people gather for the prayer service*

Welcome and Invitation to Prayer

words of welcome

Opening Prayer:

God of Love and Hope, you are with us always as we cross the rivers of life. We carry with us wisdom, values and the capacity to wonder.

We gather here in a posture of prayerful openness to remember our loved ones who have died. As we remember them, we come with listening hearts, loving spirits and holy wonder. May those who are grieving find the strength and understanding they need to cope with each day. Teach us to be patient with ourselves and to let your presence be our constant strength. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Candle Lighting

*We light three candles for the Trinity of Love:
God above us, God beside us, God beneath us;
the beginning, the end, the everlasting One.*

Leader 1: God among us

All: Surround us with your love

Leader 2: God among us

All: Surround us with your peace

Leader 3: God among us

All: Surround us with your grace



Symbolic lighting of three candles

In the beginning before time, before people, before the world began, GOD WAS.

Here and now among us, beside us, GOD IS.

In the future, when we have turned to dust and all we know has found its fulfilment, GOD WILL BE.

God Was

God Is

God Will Be

Choose a suitable song:

E.g. Enfold me in your Love-



Monica Brown - CD Quiet My Soul

Enfold me in Your love

Enfold me in Your love

Encircle me O God

Surround me with Your love

Come fill me with Your

love

Or

Sit in Light - Jan Novotka

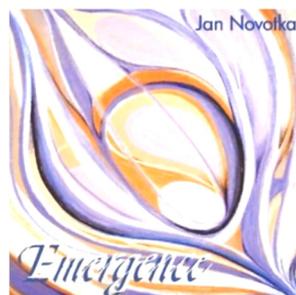
CD Emergence

Sit in Light. Breathe in Peace.

Rest in Love.

One with Light, with Peace;

Ground of Love.



*Short time of silence, to deepen awareness of being
enfolded in God's love and light.*

Reading: John 12:35-36

*The Light is among you. Walk by the
light you have so that darkness doesn't
destroy you. If you walk in darkness you
don't know where you are going. As you
have the light, believe in the light. Then
the light will be within you and shining
through your lives.*



Quiet time

Reflection

Death seems so cruel, so purposeless at times. But it's not. Death is what alerts the rest of us to life .

There is a period when the parts of us that died with the death of those we loved rises again in the recollection of past moments and the tears of past tenderness. This is when we know for certain that every deed we ever do lives on somewhere in someone who remembers it. This is when we are made to see death as a prod to life.

Death gives us all the gift of time - our own and the time of those around us. It calls us to stop and look at sunflowers next time, to care for the grasses always, to embrace the planet forever, to pay attention to our friends, to take

comfort in the dark, to remember that daffodils will unfold again. It is time to plant spring in our own hearts, to remember the light that no darkness can take away.

There is only one breath between life and death. The important thing is to make every breath count .

People return to us after they die -not in body but in essence. Then we see most clearly who they were. The central question of life is: What will people see in me then, what essence of my life will remain with those left behind?

The death of someone we know reminds us that we are still alive for a purpose. Our growing is not over yet; our giving is not finished.

A Month of Memories: Words of Comfort on the Death of a Loved One

Joan Chittister

Quiet time

*“The life and death of a human being
is so exquisitely calibrated
as to automatically produce
union with Spirit.”*

Kathleen Dowling Singh



A Space to Remember

Leader

We now celebrate the memory of our loved ones who have touched and enriched our lives in so many ways.

Read the names of our Mercy Sisters who have died

Members recall the names of family members and friends who have died.

Quiet time for silent prayer

Prayer

*God of our journey we know that we do not travel alone
for you are constantly with us.*

Be our companion all the days of our lives.

Uphold us in times of grief.

Direct our steps along the path of hopefulness.

Give us courage to trust in our emptiness and pain.

May we learn to be patient with ourselves.

*Strengthen us, so that we may reach out to others in their
need. **Amen.***

Magnificat: Magnificat of Waiting for The Fullness of Time
Luke 1:56

My soul reflects quietly on your fullness, and my spirit grows stronger in the hope of your promise, God my redeemer, because you have filled me with the knowing that you are alive within me.

Yes, day by day through the course of time, my awareness of the call to blessed fulfilment increases for you have done great things in me.

Holy is this time, and patience is your gift to all who nurture the seed of your love.

You have changed my life; I was so confident in my unknowing.

My own definite plans now give way in wonder, as you spread before me your vision of fragile simplicity.

*My longing to be a healing and reconciling person to your people is affirmed within the daily comings and goings of my life.
My illusions of my own wholeness are mercifully revealed.*

You are here now in this seeming emptiness of waiting, remembering your intent, according to the promise made in the beginning of time.

*Remembering your intent to reach through the example of my life that your fullness may be known now, in our time. **Amen.***

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, as we gather to celebrate the life and death of our sisters, family members and friends we pray that our Church, it's leaders and people may continue to walk towards the newness and wholeness you offer us.

Response: *Breathe in us a renewed spirit of compassionate presence.*

We thank you, God, for the years of commitment and fidelity given by our loved ones who have died. With great gratitude for their example, may we continue to cross the rivers of life in boats of love.

Response: *Breathe in us a renewed spirit of compassionate presence.*

Holy Breath of God, you stir among us continuously. Warmed by this breath may all of us be encouraged and energized to continue working in Mercy and Justice for your people, here and now, according as we feel called.

Response: *Breathe in us a renewed spirit of compassionate presence.*

As you gifted those gone before us with caring hearts and clear discernment to carry out their mission and ministry, grant that we too may be able to call on these gifts to empower each other and those whose lives we touch.

Response: *Breathe in us a renewed spirit of compassionate presence.*

Gracious God, grant your healing and wholeness to all who are sick. May those who experience loneliness find a listening ear in us.

Response: *Breathe in us a renewed spirit of compassionate presence.*

We pray for our community/cluster here in for our Congregation, for the family members, relatives and friends of those who have died. We ask you, God to bless them with health and serenity. We remember all the deceased members of our congregation and our families, asking that they may now enjoy eternal peace and joy.

Response: Breathe in us a renewed spirit of compassionate presence.

We live our lives in the shelter of our community, friends and neighbours. We thank you, our caring God, for the generous and gracious support we have experienced from them especially during our times of grief. May they in turn know your love and blessing.

Response: Breathe in us a renewed spirit of compassionate presence.

Include your own community/personal prayers

Pray together: Our Father

Closing Prayer

*For all that God can do within us;
for all that God can do without us
Thanks be to God*

*For all in whom Christ lives before us;
for all in whom Christ lives beside us
Thanks be to God*

*For all that the Spirit wants to bring us;
for where the Spirit wants to send us
Thanks be to God*



BLESSING

*May we live from a place of God's compassionate presence
shining through us to warm all those who are grieving.*

*May we live from a rhythm of work and rest, silence and word,
stillness and action - gifts given to the universe by God for our
well-being.*

May we live as sacraments of God's strength to those who grieve

May we live from a deep sense of God's call in our lives

May we live by being faithful to our own journey

May we live in peace with those who are troubled and anxious

*May we live by opening our loneliness to God and to those with
whom we can cultivate a healthy interdependence*

*May we live by being changed by our journey -
becoming completely at peace with ourselves and with God.*

*Loss makes artists of us all
as we weave new patterns
in the fabric of our lives.*

*Respond to those who are grieving
with as much loving heart
and compassionate presence as possible*

*There is not always a solution to grief
and loss, but there is always a possible
response.*



*I thought: maybe death isn't darkness, after all,
but so much light wrapping itself around us—
as soft as feathers—*

Mary Oliver



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