

REMEMBRANCE - MEMORIAL SERVICE

By Lola Lamoreux

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PROGRAM

The Worthy Matron speaks:

This is an hour of remembrance. Our thoughts are turned to those who have passed beyond the realms of this life and are abiding in the greater joy and peace of their eternal home. Let it not be a time of sorrowing, for our Heavenly Father has said, "Let not your hearts be troubled, ye believe in God believe also in me.....I go to prepare a place for you that where I am there ye may be also." We miss our sisters and brothers who have gone before but we do not wish for their return from a place where eternal happiness reigns supreme.

We remember with pleasure the beautiful lives of our departed, loved ones, we remember their faithful devotion to our Chapter; we remember their service to their fellowmen and their faith in the Supreme Being.

It is with comfort that we read, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

Sister Conductress and Associate Conductress you will attend at the Altar.

The two sisters approach the Altar. The Associate Conductress removes the open Bible while the Conductress drapes the Altar, then replaces it. The officers bow and resume their stations.

"Sweetly Rest" or any appropriate number is sung at this time.

The Worthy Matron speaks: Sister Secretary, you will place a scroll containing the names of our departed members upon the Altar and Sister Treasurer, you will place a scroll containing the names of the departed members of this Grand Jurisdiction upon the Altar.

The Secretary and Treasurer go to the Altar and speak as they place the scrolls. The Secretary says:

And whether they be near or far
We cannot see, we cannot hear,
But for them we have no fear
Since He who is our faithful Guide
Doth over all His realms preside.

The Treasurer speaks:

God called our loved ones,
Yet we lose not wholly what He has given,
They live on earth in thought and deed,
As truly as in Heaven. (Officers resume stations)

The Worthy Matron speaks:

Sister Chaplain, you will light the candles of Remembrance. These candles have been placed at the stations of the Worthy Matron, Conductress, Associate Conductress and Associate Matron before the ceremony began. The Chaplain lights her own candle first and from it lights the others. Soft music is played while this is done.

Chaplain lighting the candle at Worthy Matron's station says:
"I am the Resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord, he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live. And who so ever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

Chaplain, lighting candle at Associate Conductress' station says:
"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me."

Chaplain lighting candle at Associate Matron's station says:

"For I know that if my earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved I have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

Chaplain lighting candle at Conductress' station:

"Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

The Chaplain then approaches the East and addressing the Worthy Matron says:

Worthy Matron, the candles of Remembrance are lit.

Worthy Matron:

Worthy Patron, will you now tell us the symbolism of the candles?

Worthy Patron:

The lighted candles are a symbol of our earthly life. The candles are lit as life begins. When life is over they go out. Sometimes one may burn longer than another. Here we see the uncertainty of human life. Today a candle is lit and brightly burning, tomorrow it will be snuffed out and leave darkness. But our symbolism carries us still further. The candle, gone out, may be lighted again. So it is with us - in the eternal home we awake to a new life where our light shall shine forever and ever. Never more to be dimmed or extinguished.

God knows the way, He holds the key,
He guides us with unerring hand,
Some time, with undimmed eyes
We'll see and understand.

Soft music is played as officers with lighted candles approach Altar. Chaplain, Conductress and Associate Matron between Ruth and Esther's stations; Worthy Matron and Associate Conductress between Martha's and Esther's stations. They form a semi circle around the Altar.

Worthy Matron placing candle on N.E. corner of Altar says:

Sleep on beloved, sleep and take thy rest,
Lay down thy head on the Savior's breast,
We love thee well, but Jesus loved thee best.

Chaplain, placing candle on S.E. corner of Altar says:

Say not good-bye, the flowers of June
May hide their faces all too soon,
But while beneath the mold they lie
They say good-night, not good-bye.

Conductress placing candle on S.W. corner of Altar says:

"Why weepest thou?" the Master said,
"Only asleep, not dead, not dead."

Associate Conductress places candle on N.W. corner of Altar, saying:

As sure as the night comes the morning,
When the sun will shine once more,
And as sure as parting, a meeting
On some glad distant shore.

Associate Matron placing candle on middle, west of Bible says:

To the promised land these friends have gone,
To the land of perfect rest,
Their work is done and the setting sun
Has sealed their life's request.
They have left their earthly stand,
For a home beyond the sea,
Though dead and gone they still live on,
In cherished memory.

Officers remain at Altar while "Face to Face" is sung as a solo or duet, then resume their stations. When they are seated the Worthy Patron calls up the Chapter and says: Led by our Chaplain, let us unite in praying the Lord's Prayer.

"So may it ever be."