

MEMORIAL SERVICE

THEY HAVE WALKED THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR

Prepared by Lena Halstead

Each Star Point have flowers color of their station and candles.

All Officers have candles and form a cross with Altar in the arm of the cross--the Worthy Matron and Patron first with an officer back of each one. The Conductress at one end of Altar with Assoc. Cond. at the other end, rest of officers line up two by two west of the altar.

Until time to form the cross the Star points stand at their stations facing the Altar.

READER: "Down through the ages man has asked the age old question,
If a man die, shall he live again? Is death the last sleep?
Jesus answered that question when He said, In my Father's house
are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you. I go
to prepare a place for you that where I am there ye may be also,
and if I go I will come again."

Meaning that death is the great and final awaking, that this earthly life when viewed from heaven, will seem like an hour passed long ago, and dimly remembered.

Death is as sweet as the flowers are, it is as blessed as bird-singing in spring. When we hear of the death of anyone who is ready to die, it makes our hearts happy for that soul. We are sorry for those left behind, but rejoice with those who have WALKED THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR.

Our loved ones and friends who have gone into that life just beyond are as real a personality as ever, they are even more alive than before, having entered into LIFE MORE ABUNDANT.

So our loved ones and friends are not lost to us when they make the great change called death. There is no death, there are no dead. We cannot die, the day we think is our last day, is but our birthday in heaven. Life is truly over-lord of death, and love can never, never lose its own.

Let us think of the world as a garden
In which grow the souls of men;
Some growing in ease and comfort,
Some in misery, poverty----then
Let us think of God as the gardener,
Let us trust that His wisdom will know,
Exactly the king of circumstance,
That will best help the soul to grow.

The growth of the soul builds for us our home in heaven, if we are good builders, when we come to the end of the way, we shall not be afraid to enter the open door that leads into the HOME OF THE SOUL.

Star Points

As the Reader reads, the Star Point walks slowly to the altar and places her flowers on the altar, returns to her station.

READER: These flowers of blue are for Adah, and are a symbol of the sky so blue,

when clouds of day and night have vanished, they give to us Faith of the dawning day.

READER: These flowers of pure gold represent Constancy, and teach us courage, honor, justice, and to be humble, good and true. Let us ever remember Ruth with her love and kindness as long as we shall live.

READER: These beautiful white flowers are for Esther, the wife so good and true. She realized that she might be inviting death, but her heart was full of courage and she loved her people and was loyal to them. Blessed are the pure in heart.

READER: Green is for Martha, a sister so very dear, and so the evergreen is an emblem of Hope and Immortality, and teaches us that there is no death and there is no dead, that the spirit goes back to the God who gave it.

READER: These flowers so red are for Mother Electa, a symbol of life and love. "Greater love hath no man, than he lay down his life for another".

* Officers now light their candles, and form a cross around the altar, the Worthy Matron and Patron leaving their stations first, followed by the Assoc. Matron and Patron. Then the treasurer and secretary, then Assoc. Cond. and Cond, with Star Points, Sentinel and Warder and Marshal. (Memorial Service is given with Chapter Closed).

Solo: In the Garden or, Going Down the Valley

The cross formation remains thus until the Chaplain prays. The Cross formation leaves room at the altar for Chap. to kneel.

CHAPLAIN, holding a small white foam cross advances to the altar and says:

Here is the light of prayer,
For the living and the dead
And the names of our departed,
On these pages I have spread.

She then reads the names of members who have passed on this past year, as she continues, beginning with the W.M. and W.P. the candles two by two are very slowly blown out.

(Here)

There's a candle light extinguished,
There's a break in our chain,
But the memory lingers in our midst,
Till some day we meet again.

Then standing the cross on the altar at the top of an open Bible, she kneels and prays. (If the Bible was closed when the Chapter was called to Rest, let it remain closed for this).

Prayer: Our Father, ever guide us on our way,
Through this life's devious ways,
And may we learn its lessons
As we travel through the maze.
May we emulate these virtues
As they exemplified,
And follow through the good deeds
Of these faithful who have died. Amen

The Officers turn West and march out, followed by the W.M. and W.P.