

MEMORIAL SERVICE

By Olive Cain

W.M. Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will drape our altar with the assistance of the Associate Matron.

(The Conductress has charge of the drape, having placed it in her chair previous to the opening of Chapter)

Gavel is sounded three times for all to stand.

NOTE: The Conductress, Associate Conductress and Associate Matron go into the labyrinth directly from their chairs---Conductress between Adah and Ruth, Associate Conductress between Martha and Electa and the Associate Matron approaches the altar between Esther and Ruth. The Associate Matron stands in front of the altar facing East and the Conductress to the right of the altar facing North and the Associate Conductress to the left of the altar facing south.

The Associate Matron lifts the Bible carefully and reverently, while the drape is arranged by the Conductress and Associate Conductress at the East end of the altar, then the Associate Matron places the Bible back to its original position.

When this has been accomplished--

W.M. Sister Secretary, you will read the names of our beloved Sisters and Brothers who have gone through the open gates to their home beyond.

Dim lights

(Secretary reads names and places scroll on altar and as she does so says--)

Secretary-- I place this scroll upon the altar
For loved ones gone before.
They have passed through gates eternal
And we shall see them here no more.

(Secretary returns and stands by her station)

W.M. (Advancing to foot of altar--East end, facing West--holding a basket in her hand)

What is the message of love that our Star Points bring?

Adah-- (Advances toward the W.M. bringing with her a flower of blue)
My point is the color of dawning
It tells of Heaven's blue.
Our thoughts are with our departed,
Dear Lord, they have gone with You.

(Places her flower in W.M. basket)

(Returns and stands by her station)

Ruth— (Advancing toward the W.M. bringing with her a flower of yellow)
 My point is the color of sunshine
 Which drives the clouds away;
 Our loved ones live in spirit
 Each one with God today.

(Places flower in basket)
 (Returns to station by going in front of Adah's)

Ester— (Advancing directly toward W.M. bringing with her a flower of white)
 Serene they wait in silver light
 Of each beautiful new-born day.
 Truly these members live again
 They've only journeyed a little way.

(Deposits flower in basket)
 (Returns to station by going in front of Adah's)

Martha— (Advancing through labyrinth toward W.M. bringing her green fern)
 Faith without sight leads us onward
 Each one has gone his way
 We pause at the words "Believest thou this?"
 Ere we enter God's garden for aye.

(Places fern in basket)
 (Returns to station by going in front of Electa's chair)

Electa— (Advancing to W.M. from her (Electa's) right)
 Love is the watchword that opens the gate
 Love wipes away each tear;
 So we pause near the gateway of Heaven
 Their memory, each one, to revere.

(Places her red flower in basket)
 (Returns to her station)
 (W.M. holds her position while soft music is played
 and Chaplain goes to the altar, entering as usual)

Chaplain— (Kneeling at altar in prayer)
 To Thee, dear Lord, we give these friends
 Protect them with Thy sight,
 Enfold them safe within Thy arms
 Then keep them in Thy sight.
 Assuage the anguish of each heart
 Their faith and strength renew
 Protect and keep each friend, O Lord,
 That they may follow You.

(She arises and stands in front of altar)

W.M.— (Placing the filled basket upon the altar)
 (Places scroll in the basket)

These flowers we give in memory
 Of these dear friends who have
 Passed over the portal--there to be with God.

(W.M. and Chaplain return to stations while soft music is played)

'Turn up brighter lights.

END