

Memorial Service Guide

Compiled by Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts
Revised: February 19, 2015

TYPICAL ORDER OF SERVICE—may be changed and modified

Organ Prelude *(Typically organist's choice unless family has specific requests.)*

Welcome Rev. Howard N. Dana

Call to Worship

To live in this world you must be able to do three things:
To love what is mortal;
To hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends on it;
And, when the time comes to let it go, to let it go. —Mary Oliver

Opening Hymn Options include:

#29 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
#38 Morning Has Broken
#87 Nearer, My God, to Thee
#101 Abide With Me
#322 Thanks Be For These

Unison Chalice Lighting

In our time of grief, we light a flame of sharing,
the flame of ongoing life. In this time when we
search for understanding and serenity in the face
of loss, we light this sign of our quest for truth,
meaning, and community. —Christine Robinson

Reading *(Typically a poem or passage of prose that is meaningful to the family.)*

Responsive Reading

Options include:
#468 We Need One Another
#557 A Common Destiny
#558 For Everything a Season
#642 Psalm 23
#660 To Live Deliberately
#720 We Remember Them

Eulogy *(Typically done by one or more family members—stories of the deceased.)*

Hymn/Anthem/ Options include:

Song #205 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
#15 The Lone Wild Bird in Lofty Flight
#101 Abide With Me
#87 Nearer, My God, to Thee

Sharing of Family *(Optional—an opportunity for family members to share spontaneously.)*

Sharing of Friends *(Optional—an opportunity for friends to briefly share spontaneously.)*

Moment of Silence

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Howard N. Dana

Invitation to the Reception

Closing Hymn Options include:
#108 My Life Flows on in Endless Song
#128 For All That Is Our Life
#21 For the Beauty of the Earth
#205 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
#101 Abide With Me
#87 Nearer, My God, to Thee
#215 Praise to the Living God
#322 Thanks Be For These

Closing Words Rev. Howard N. Dana

Benediction

Go out into the world in peace.
Have courage.
Hold on to what is good.
Return to no person evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak.
Help the suffering.
Honor all beings.

--Adapted from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians

Extinguish the Chalice Flame

Organ Postlude *(Typically organist's choice unless family has specific requests.)*

Reception