

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR A CHILD

We come together today to remember little (Name) - his/her laughter and joy his/her inquiring mind and insights s/he gave to all of us.

Let us remember him/her this way —(Name) you have put on invisibility and we can not see —But we know this —that God gently takes (Name)'s hand and leads him/her on the ascending road. Our life did not begin with birth nor end with death and (Name)'s life did not begin with birth and s/he does not end with death. We see birth and death as the opening and closing of a door.

(Name) would appreciate the poem by Isla Paschal Richardson;

If I should ever leave you whom I love  
To go along the Silent way,  
Grieve not, nor speak of me with tears,  
But laugh and talk of me as if I were beside you there.  
(I'd come —I'd come, could I but find a way!  
But would not tears and grief be barrier?)  
And when you hear a song or see a bird I loved,  
Please do not let the thought of me be sad  
For I am loving you just as I always have.  
You were so good to me!  
There are so many things I want still to love  
so many things to say to you.  
Remember that I did not fear  
It was just leaving you that was so hard to face.  
We cannot see beyond  
But this I know — I loved you so  
'twas heaven here with you!

Let us pray —Mirror in your mind thoughts of (Name) and in your own way tell him/her of your love for her. SILENCE Amen.

Remember in Mark 10:13-16 They were bringing the little children to Jesus so he could touch them. Then the disciples saw this the rebuked the people But Jesus saw this and said "Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not: for to such belongeth the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no wise enter therein. And he took the children into his arms, and blessed them, laying his hands upon them."

We think of (Name) and see him/her enfolded in the arms of Jesus.  
Jesus loved the little children for He saw the spark within each child. We read on in the Bible in Matthew 18 when the disciples asked Jesus Who is the greatest in the kingdom

of heaven? And Jesus called to Him a little child, and set the child in the midst of them and said, verily I say unto you, Except you turn and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whosoever Shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. .

See that ye despise not one of these little ones: for I say unto, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven."

As we think of (Name) we see his/her angelic face--hear his/her laughter--and know that s/he is secure in the loving arms of God. We remember (Name) and take these wonderful promises into our minds and hearts and meditate on them. It behooves us all to remember at this time the sustaining, strengthening presence of God. That sustaining, strengthening presence of God that is here Right now with all of us. God's presence surrounds and enfolds (Name)'s parents and makes them know that the soul of their beloved son/daughter is safe in the Father's arms. Jesus gives each child a high place in the kingdom of heaven. All of us here today are assured that (Name) is very dear to the heart of Our Father-Mother God.

Let us take a few moments to listen to some of (Name)'s favorite songs.

Jesus Loves Me  
The Prayer of Faith  
Jesus loves the little children

Quite often as we think about the passing of a little child we wonder why the child should be born to live such a short life span. (years) years is not very long. We should remember that days, months, or years are not the measure of a life. The measure is taken in the growth and in the goodness that has been added because (Name) was with us. The spark s/he added to our lives. (Name) brought joy, love, awakened new and splendid response in all of us here today. We can not think of how long (Name) lived but rather how richly s/he lived. Because of (Name) we rededicate ourselves to being kinder and more loving to all children of God, we can not say that this little life was short but rather that it produced much good. Whether a life is long or short is a human thought of time, not of God. In God the life of each soul is immeasurable, from everlasting to everlasting. Our expression may change but our life springs from our eternal spirit. The important thing to remember is that we can say, "Because of this child having lived I know more of God."

We can truly say Because of (Name) we now know more of God. When we say that, we are crowning (Name)'s life with a glory especially meant for her.

Shall we pray; Our heavenly Father-Mother who art the very essence of life and

love, may we feel Thy presence here and now. Let Thyself be made known to all the loved ones here today, that they may feel a renewed strength, a greater understanding, and be truly comforted. This time of grief is important in the healing and in the remembering. Illumine our minds that we may see more clearly than ever before the fulfillment of the divine promise of Jesus. "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth." (John 14:16-17) May the very presence of this Comforter enter the minds and hearts of all, to lift them up, to enable them to live even better lives for having known this beloved child. Even as Jesus took the little children in His arms, may we go forth from this moment on remember that God stretched forth His hands to (Name), enfolding him/her in eternal life and love. AMEN.

One way to remember (Name) is in this selection called  
"There Is No Death"

I am standing on the seashore. A ship at my side spreads him/her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. S/he is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch him/her until at length s/he is a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says, "There! S/he's gone!" Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all. S/he is just as large in mast and hull and spar as s/he was when she left my side, and s/he is just as able to bear him/her load of living weight to destined harbor.

His/Her diminished size is in me, not in him/her. And just as the moment when someone at my side says, There! S/he's gone! there are other eyes watching him/her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "There s/he comes!"

And that is dying.

Wise and loving Father, into Thy tender care we loving give this little spirit and soul. In Thy care and keeping we place all these who were near to (Name). Peace be unto them. Peace be unto all. in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.