

## FUNERAL SERVICE

Date: / /

ON BEHALF OF THE FAMILY OF:

(\_\_\_\_\_);

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE... HAVING COME TO COMFORT THEM and TO PAY YOUR LAST RESPECTS TO (\_\_\_\_\_)

THIS BEING A SAD OCCASION FOR US WHO REMAIN...

LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT IT IS NOT SAD FOR (\_\_\_\_\_) AND THE HEAVENLY HOST!

LISTEN TO THE COMFORT & THE PROMISE OF THE WORDS IN THIS SPECIAL SCRIPTURE:

JOHN 14:1-4

1.LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED; YE BELIEVE IN GOD,BELIEVE ALSO IN ME.

2. 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.

3. AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, I WILL COME AGAIN, AND RECEIVE YOU UNTO MYSELF; THAT WHERE I AM THERE YE MAY BE ALSO.

INSTEAD OF FEARING DEATH;

WE SHOULD LOOK IT IN THE FACE  
AND RECOGNIZE IT FOR WHAT IT IS ....

A FRIEND,  
THAT HAS COME TO RELEASE US FROM THE BONDAGE OF THE FLESH!

The Bible contains many mysteries;  
but, there are also many statements of HOPE for the FUTURE:

LUKE 23:42-43

42. AND HE WAS SAYING, "JESUS, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME IN YOUR KINGDOM!"

43. AND HE SAID TO HIM, "TRULY I SAY TO YOU TODAY YOU SHALL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE."

## OBITUARITY

We cannot escape the fact that life involves the extremes of:  
joy and sadness,  
laughter and tears,  
pleasure and suffering.

As we gather here today:  
Momentarily, the joy is covered by the sadness.

Tears have washed away the laughter.  
And this gathering seems to end a long journey of suffering.

One of the challenges of this moment is to realize that:

joy,  
laughter,  
and pleasure

have not been permanently destroyed.

In God's grace they will return.

As the author of Revelation has stated:

Rev. 21: 3-4

"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death"

In God's Holy Word: The Psalmist has provided for us a word of "HOPE" that goes beyond the limits of life into the shadows which appear for every human being.

Psalms 23

{1} The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

{2} He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

{3} He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

**{4} Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.**

{5} Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

{6} Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Assuming that David is the author of this master-piece, let's consider for just a moment:

who he was

and look at some of his background:

1. David was a mortal creature with joys & frustrations
2. He was a powerful person physically & politically.
3. He was a KING and a servant of GOD.
4. He was a man of confidence because he had allowed life to teach him well the lessons of "FAITH".

Whatever the immediate occasion for this psalm,

it was one of those times when the very foundations of life seemed to be threatened.

Yet, the psalmist spoke with such assurance,  
an assurance for which most of us hunger !!!

Let's consider his carefully chosen description of death:

I. He talked of his:

**"WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH".**

The fact that he described the place as a valley is significant.

He didn't describe death in terms of:

1. a violent sea,
2. a stormy mountain,
3. nor a lifeless desert.

He painted the image of a

valley:  
that area at the foot of a peaceful mountain.

It is not far from the mountain where we can more easily envision:  
the om nip o tent GOD of Peace

II. He continued his description of death:  
as a Shadow

A shadow exists only as long as there is light to cast a shadow.

The Lord was not only David's Shepherd, who supplied his needs;  
but, also was the only Source of Light

1. Death only temporarily stands in our light.
2. The light is still there.
3. A shadow is evidence of its existence.

Oh, what a reassuring image,

and yet we seem to fear it !

III. Yet, one of the most significant words in Psalm 23 is one that we frequently read past without giving much thought to the reassurance which is offered:

A Walk **THROUGH** the Valley

It's not a walk into the valley

It's not a walk in the valley

It's not even a walk around the valley

Instead ...  
the journey is **THROUGH** the Valley.

This image has to be one of the most powerful in SCRIPTURE !

The journey is only Temporary.

We can persevere as long as we can see LIGHT at the end of the tunnel.

That LIGHT is always there.

IV. Then he talked about:  
Walking WITH us

We are not alone in this time of grief.

The Shepherd has not only Walked before us,

but, preparations have been made for our necessities ...

even now, as we meet here.

The Scriptures state that a CARING SHEPHERD will comfort us with his Rod and Staff.

There is little in life that isolates us more than the pain of GRIEF.

Yet, this psalm is a vivid reminder that HIS rod and staff are providing for our needs this very moment.

A loved one for whom we grieve ... will not return on this side of the door.

But, in the meantime, as you adjust to that absence,

the SHEPHERD will be caring for you and your loved one every moment.

In this moment there are great needs for green pastures and still waters.

The Psalmist pointed us to a Shepherd who does more than just tend us.  
HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US !

The path we walk today,  
is not UN-CHARTED.

Preparations began long ago !!!

Let me leave you with this assurance:

The GOOD SHEPHERD has not only carried this one into;

But, **THROUGH** the Valley of the Shadow

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,  
Life is so precious to each of us,  
that all that is within us, says NO to Death !

We see Death as the Dark Mysterious enemy that destroys the good that YOU've created.

Help us to see death as YOU see it.

1. not the end; but the beginning.
2. not a wall; but a doorway.
3. not a dark road; but a path that leads to eternal light and life.

May our minds and hearts be filled with the wonderful memories of the past.

Help our sadness to wear a smile, as the passing of time wipes the tears away.

Time can be a great physician,  
healing the void that we now feel.

Every life is a gift from YOU dear FATHER.  
Thank you for sharing this special person's life with us.  
AMEN !