



Hospice Memorial Service Program - Oct 2021

Welcome

Rev. Maureen E. Steer,
Holistic Disciplines Manager

Readings

Amy Lambiase, RN, MSN
Bahá'í Reflection on My Spirit

Kristie Bonyman, BSW
"Litany of My Journey" by Joyce Rupp

Litany of Remembrance

Ruth Kletnick, Hospice Chaplain
Rachel Eichenbaum, RN & Rebecca Boccio, RN

Moment of Quiet Reflection

Rev. Maureen E. Steer,
Holistic Disciplines Manager

Reading

Rachel Eichenbaum, RN
"The Guest House" by Rumi

Closing Remarks

Hayley Bustos, MSN, FNP-C, ACHPN
Hospice & Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner





Rev. Maureen E. Steer

Welcome

Welcome to the Cornerstone VNA Fall Virtual Hospice Memorial Service. My name is Maureen Steer, I'm the Holistic Disciplines Manager and welcome you to our service. We offer this service - virtually, because of COVID - as a way for you to mindfully take time to allow yourself grieving, and that process that needs to take place. Sometimes we are so hurried it's hard to take that time and in COVID we're experiencing so much grief. Everybody is so surrounded by it that the people who are losing loved ones are being hit with layers of grief and it becomes very heavy. So we invite you into this space.

Here in New England, as I am looking around at the trees, we experience the change of the seasons. And in our life, we also experience this change and sometimes when we go from the warmth of summer into the coldness of winter, where winter is dark - that often feels how our grief feels, where the grief is heavy and dark. We'd like you to just come into this space - a safe space to feel your grief - to know that you are surrounded by people that care and to really honor your loved one.

So welcome to this service. Allow yourself permission to enter this space and take the time. Feel your feelings. And we will walk you through a journey together.



Amy Lambiase, RN, MSN

Bahá'í Reflection on My Spirit

Refresh and gladden my spirit.
Purify my heart.
Illumine my powers.
I lay all my affairs in Thy hand.
Thou art my guide and refuge.
I will no longer be sorrowful and grieved.
I will be a happy and joyful being.
I will no longer be full of anxiety, nor will I let trouble harass me.
I will not dwell on the unpleasant things in life.
O God! Thou art more friend to me than I am to myself.
I dedicate myself to Thee, O Lord.



Kristie Bonyman, BSW

Litany of My Journey

Help me to accept that all of life is only on loan to me:
To believe beyond this moment
To accept courage when mine might fail
To treasure ALL as gift and blessing
To look at the painful part of life and to grow through it
To allow love to embrace me on days that might feel empty and lonely
and to hold all of life in open hands

Joyce Rupp O.S.M.



Ruth Kletnick, Hospice Chaplain
Rachel Eichenbaum, RN & Rebecca Boccio, RN

Litany of Remembrance

One: In the rising of the sun and in its going down
All: We remember them

One: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter
All: We remember them

One: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring
All: We remember them

One: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer
All: We remember them

One: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn
All: We remember them

One: In the beginning of the year and when it ends
All: We remember them

One: When we are weary and in need of strength
All: We remember them

One: When we are lost and sick at heart
All: We remember them

One: When we have joys we yearn to share
All: We remember them

One: So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us
**All: We ask that they go on living in us who have loved them so deeply in
our hearts and minds, in our courage and conscience
as we remember them.**



Rev. Maureen E. Steer

Moment of Quiet Reflection

Thank you everyone.

As we go into our quiet moment of reflection, I just wanted to share a little bit about the garden. Here we have a butterfly memorial garden that we would invite you and your family to come and walk through, and one of the things I love about the garden is that each butterfly is not alone. It's surrounded by others. As much as you are surrounded by others who are also experiencing grief. So even though sometimes grief feels very lonely, you're actually surrounded by a lot of people going through a similar experience, and we would invite you to come and enjoy this space that we created, and it's really beautiful with the butterflies, find your loved one's butterfly and take it with you so that you have a memory of this service. It's an expression of us always remembering, just as we've just said we remember, we remember that loved one.

And now I'd like to invite you into a quiet space. Just to sit with your thoughts with your memories with your feelings - and just remember your loved one all they brought to your life. Everything that you experienced with them. Everything that this process has brought into your life and invites you to. Kindly and gently be in that space with yourself.



Rachel Eichenbaum, RN

The Guest House

This being human is a guest house.

Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes

As an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!

Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,

still treat each guest honorably.

He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

Jalaluddin Rumi,
translation by Coleman Barks



Hayley Bustos, MSN, FNP-C, ACHPN

Closing Remarks

I'm going to conclude the program today with a poem called condolences.

Condolences

May the sweet light of change shine in the darkness.
May the first breath of each morning begin life again.
May the memories unfold as prayers for life.
May the love continue to fill the silence.

Thank you for joining us. We hope you've enjoyed our Fall Memorial Service. As Maureen said at the beginning, you're welcome to visit our gardens and bring home the butterfly that bears the name of your loved one.

Thank you and be well.