

Resources for Funerals

Time of Personal Prayer and Reflection during a Funeral

by Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion

Sample Introduction:

Questions have the ability to bring what is important into focus. They can point us in the right direction. They can offer unlimited possibilities. As I walked alongside my friend through the varying stages of his illness, there were some questions that his life asked me. I began asking these questions as I sat quietly with God.

I am going to share four of these questions. Once I have spoken one, I will pause for about half a minute. I invite you to enter an attitude of prayer. In God's presence, allow each question to take you where it may.

(Note: The word "cancer" may be replaced by a word that more closely describes the reality of the situation.)

Guided Prayer:

From the *earliest* stages of my friend's journey with cancer came this question. In the silence, prayerfully consider: *What changes do I need to make in my life so that I can live more fully?*

(Wait half a minute.)

From the *first half* of my friend's journey with cancer came this question. In the silence, prayerfully consider: *What can I do to make my community a better place, even if I can't do everything that I want to?*

(Wait half a minute.)

From the *second half* of my friend's journey with cancer came this question. In the silence, prayerfully consider: *What do I believe will happen to me after I die?*

(Wait half a minute.)

From the *end* of my friend's journey with cancer came this question. In the silence, prayerfully consider: *In what ways is it time for me to let go and let God?*

(Wait half a minute.)

May these questions, as well as the many other questions that those who have died asked and lived, inspire and nourish us.

Note: The remaining resources in this section, written by Victor D. Lehman, appear in his book *The Pastor's Guide to Weddings and Funerals* (Judson Press, 2001).

A Funeral Invocation

by Victor D. Lehman

Lord of life, author of hope, victor over death, be present with us in these moments of memorial and grant to us the real experience of your living presence. In your infinite and unconditional love, be pleased to look down on our bereaved souls and enable us to hear your holy Word, that through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures, we may again find hope. Impart to our minds an understanding of life after death, to our hearts an assurance of that which we are invited to possess in Jesus Christ, and to our lives the courage to persevere in faithful living. By the power of Jesus Christ, who himself rose from the grave, comfort us and challenge us with the words of eternal life. Amen.

A Prayer for Comfort

by Victor D. Lehman

God, our Father, we thank you for the gift of life and all that makes life precious and worth living. We thank you for choosing to place us in family units, where ties of blood and cords of love

Prayer of Preparation

by Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion

(This prayer is to be used by those preparing to lead worship.)

Once again,
I close my eyes;
I open my heart.
I ask that my words
be expressions of your Beauty.
In Jesus' reflection. Amen.

REINVENTING



Worship

Prayers, Readings, Special
Services and More

Includes a
CD-ROM
of Worship
Resources!

B R A D B E R G L U N D