

## **EULOGIES AND REMEMBRANCE**

(Adapted from a session by Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA )

### **OPENING WORDS AND CHALICE LIGHTING**

Let our sharing together provide a place where memories are rooted, where mysteries are pondered, where dreams are nourished, where love is freely given, where failures are owned and accepted, where sorrows are transformed, where our lives are deepened, challenged, and uplifted. Let this be such a time and place.

-Adapted from Rev. David E. Bumbaugh, Unitarian Universalist Minister

**PURPOSE:** We come together to build connections and talk about what deeply matters.

**CHECK IN:** What are you leaving behind to be fully present here today.

### **READING OF GROUP COVENANT**

**FOCUS:** Eulogies and remembrance: (Quotations for reflection)

The Eulogy, as given at a funeral or memorial, is a custom or ritual in Western cultures for remembering and honoring the life of the person who has died. ~ J. Mannino

“We die containing a richness of lovers and tribes; tastes we have swallowed; bodies we have plunged into and swum up as if rivers of wisdom; characters we have climbed into as if trees; and fears we have hidden in as if caves.”

~ Michael Ondaatje

We cannot, after all, judge a biography by the number of pages in it; we must judge by the richness of the contents. Sometimes the ‘unfinished’ are among the most beautiful symphonies. ~ Victor Frankel

And when he shall die, take him and cut him out in little stars  
And he will make the face of heaven so fine  
That all the world will be in love with the night  
And pay no worship to the garish sun.

~William Shakespeare

“The obituary that is the most meaningful (is) not necessarily ... the most column inches, but the one that is a well thought out work of the heart, one that is informative, expressive and easy to read.”

~”The Remembrance Process”

“In the rising of the sun and in its going down, let us remember them.  
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.  
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.  
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.  
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.  
When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.  
When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.  
When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.  
So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.  
“~From Roland B. Gittelsohn (Adapted)

**QUESTIONS:** Each person speaks uninterrupted. Please feel free to answer one or more of the following questions.

1. If you were planning your own eulogy to honor your life, how would you like to be remembered by family and friends.
2. An obituary (the written documentation of a death) differs from a eulogy in that it often focuses more on the objective events in a person's life. Are there ways that the 'objective' events in your life differ from how you would like to be remembered by those close to you?
3. In thinking about how you will be remembered by others, are there things in your life that feel 'unfinished' and you still want to do, or things that you realize you will never do as part of your 'legacy' ?

**CHECK OUT:** Going around the group, please share in three or four words how you feel the session was for you today.

**CONFIDENTIALITY CHECK:** Is there anything you shared here today that you would like held confidential? Otherwise, a reminder to treat all sharing with kindness and respect.

**CLOSING WORDS:**

When I am dead , cry for me a little  
Think of me sometimes , but not too much.  
Think of me now and again as I was in life  
At some moments it's pleasant to recall, but not for long.  
Leave me in peace and I shall leave you in peace  
And while you live, let your thoughts be with the living. ~ Indian Prayer