

Poems,
Readings
&
Prayers



Westella
FUNERALS

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow
Of smiles when day is done.

I'd like to leave an echo
Whispering softly down the ways;
Of happy times laughing times
And bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve
To dry before the sun.
Of happy memories I leave
Behind - when day is done.

Helen Lowrie Marshall

Don't Cry For Me

Don't cry for me now I have died,
for I'm still here I'm by your side,
My body's gone but my soul is here,
please don't shed another tear,
I am still here I'm all around,
only my body lies in the ground.

I am the snowflake that kisses your nose,
I am the frost, that nips your toes.
I am the sun ,bringing you light,
I am the star, shining so bright.
I am the rain, refreshing the earth,
I am the laughter, I am the mirth.
I am the bird, up in the sky,
I am the cloud, that's drifting by.
I am the thoughts, inside your head,
While I'm still there, I can't be dead.

Don't Weep

Don't weep at my grave,
For I am not there,
I've a date with a butterfly
to dance in the air.

I'll be singing in the sunshine,
Wild and free,
Playing tag with the wind,
Please don't weep for me.

How can I live
What am I to do
Now a part of my heart,
Is buried with you?

The Day You Left

With tears we saw you suffer,
As we watched you fade away,
Our hearts were almost broken,
As you fought so hard to stay.

We knew you had to leave us,
But you never went alone,
For part of us went with you
The day you left your home.

A Fallen Limb

A limb has fallen from the family tree.
I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me."
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.
The good life I lived while I was strong.

Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.

Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.
Until the day comes we're together again.

Do Not Stand at My Grave

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft star-shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.

Mary Frye

God's Garden

God looked around his Garden and found an empty place.
He then looked down upon his earth and saw your loving face.
He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest.
His Garden must be beautiful, he always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering, he knew you were in pain.
And knew that you would never get well on earth again.
He saw your path was difficult, he closed your tired eyes,
He whispered to you "Peace be Thine" and gave you wings to fly.

When we saw you sleeping so calm and free of pain,
We would not wish you back to earth to suffer once again.
You've left us precious memories, your love will be our guide,
You live on through your children, you're always by our side.

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone.
For part of us went with you on the day God called you home.

Memories Of You

I remember everything about you,
your voice, your smile, your touch,
the way you walked,
the way you talked,
the way you looked at me,
meant so much.

I remember all the words you said to me,
some funny, some kind, some wise,
all of the things you did for me,
I see now with different eyes.

I remember every moment we shared,
seems like only yesterday,
or maybe it was eons ago,
It's really hard to say.
You are gone from me now,
but one thing they can't take away,
your memory resides inside my heart,
and lights up my darkest days.

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took His hand when I heard him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savoured much
Good friends, good times,
a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts, and peace to thee
God wanted me now; He set me free.

Memories In The Heart

Feel no guilt in laughter, she knows how much you care
Feel no sorrow in a smile that she's not here to share
You cannot grieve forever, she would not want you to
She'd hope that you can carry on, the way you always do
So talk about the good times and the ways you showed you cared
The days you spent together, all the happiness you shared
Let memories surround you.

A word someone may say
Will suddenly recapture a time, an hour, a day
That brings her back as clearly as though she were still here
And fills you with the feelings that she is always near
For if you keep these moments, you will never be apart
And she will live forever locked safe within your heart.

In Memoriam

Our lives go on without you
But nothing is the same
We have to hide our heartache
When someone speaks your name
Sad are the hearts that love you
Silent are the tears that fall
Living without you is the hardest part of all
You did so many things for us
Your heart was so kind and true
And when we needed someone
We could always count on you
The special years will not return
When we are all together
But with the love in our hearts
You walk with us forever.

Miss Me But Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the road
and the sun has set on me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
why cry for a soul set free.

Miss me a little - but not too long,
and not with your head bowed low,
Remember the love that we once shared,
miss me - but let me go.

For this is a journey that we all must take,
and each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan,
a step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick of heart,
go to the friends we know.
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,
miss me - but let me go.

You Can Shed Tears That She Is Gone

You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember her and only that she's gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she'd want
- smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

David Harkins

Remember Me

Remember me when I am gone away,
gone far away into the silent land;
when you can no more hold me by the hand,
nor half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
you tell me of our future that you planned;
only remember me, you understand
it will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
and afterwards remember, do not grieve;
For if the darkness and corruption leave
a vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
better by far you should forget and smile
than that you should remember and be sad

Christina Rossetti

You Were A Precious Gift

You were a precious gift,
Our joy, our dreams.
You were a sparkle through the darkness;
Our hope for a brighter tomorrow.
You warmed our hearts, gave light to our minds,
And beauty to our spirits.
We gave you our love, wrapped you in our care,
caressed you with our smiles.
Now you are gone.
We grieve. We miss you so much.
The loving memories of you will keep you
Forever close to us - in our hearts,
our thoughts, our souls....

You Can Shed Tears That He Is Gone

You can shed tears that he is gone
Or you can smile because he lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back
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You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what he'd want
- smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

David Harkins

The Tide Recedes

The tide recedes
but leaves behind
bright seashells on the sand.
The sun goes down,
but gentle warmth
still lingers on the land.
The music stops,
And yet it echoes on
in sweet refrains.
For every joy that passes,
something beautiful remains.

M D Hughes

Those Who Love

It's always those who love the most
Who most miss the one they love,
When comes the parting of the ways,
And clouds loom dark above;

But tears will pass, your skies will clear
Then will you smile again,
And comfort find in memories,
Which now bring bitter pain.

"To mourn too long for those we love is
self-indulgent, but to honour their
memory with a promise to live a little
better for having known them gives
purpose to their life and some reason for
their death."

Tiny Angel

For brief and fleeting moment,
an angel touched the ground;
With tiny wings and halo,
and sweet, soft angel sounds.

Blessing the lives of others,
in beauty and in grace;
Those who saw the angel,
knew God had kissed his tiny face.

The angel came for reasons
we may not understand;
A journey brief, with gifts so great,
and guided by God's hand.

So, rest now tiny angel,
your work on earth is through;
In the beauty of God's perfect love
we saw His gift in you.

The Ode

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.

Robert Laurence Binyon

An Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

May God be with you and bless you:
May you see your children's children.
May you be poor in misfortune,
rich in blessings.
May you know nothing but happiness
From this day forward.

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home
And may the land of a friend always be near.

May green be the grass you walk on,
May blue be the skies above you,
May pure be the joys that surround you,
May true be the hearts that love you.

Gaelic Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Serenity

God grant me the serenity to accept the
things I cannot change, the courage to
change the things I can, and the wisdom
to know the difference.

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. - *Amen.*

The Our Father (Catholic)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. - *Amen.*

Matthew 5:4

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

The things we feel so deeply,
are the hardest things to say,
you will always be remembered,
in a very special way.

"We are all visitors to this time, this place.
We are just passing through.
Our purpose here is to observe,
to learn, to grow, to love ...
and then we return home."

Queen Elizabeth II
Quoting an Aboriginal Proverb

Indian Prayer

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.

Psalm 23 – The Lord is My Shepherd *A psalm of David.*

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house
of the Lord forever.

When I Am Gone

When I Am Gone When I am gone release me, Let me go, I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears, Be happy that we had so many beautiful years.
I gave to you my love. You can only guess how much you gave me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown, But now it's time I travel alone.
So grieve for me a while, if you must Then let your grief be comforted by my trust.
It's only for a while we must part, So bless the memories in your heart.
I won't be far away, for life carries on, So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near. And if you listen within your heart you'll hear
All my love around you soft and clear. And then when you must come this way alone
I'll greet you with a smile and say "Welcome Home"

A chapter completed,
a page is turned,
a life well lived,
a rest well earned.

Thank you for the years we shared, the
love you gave, the way you cared. In
our hearts you'll always stay, loved and
remembered every day.

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Don't think of her/him as gone away

Her/His journey's just begun,

Life holds so many facets

This earth is only one.

Just think of her/him as resting

From the sorrows and the tears

In a place of warmth and comfort

Where there are no days and years.

Think how she/he must be wishing

That we could know today

How nothing but our sadness

Can really pass away.

And think of her/him as living

In the hearts of those she/he touched

For nothing loved is ever lost

And she/he was loved so much.

Ellen Brenneman

The Man Was A Success

adaptation from Ralph Waldo

He laughed often and loved much; He has

gained the respect of intelligent men and

women and the love of children; He has

filled his niche and accomplished his task;

He leaves the world better than he found it,

He has never lacked appreciation for

Earth's beauty or failed to express it; He

looked for the best in others' and gave the

best he had.

Sometimes we honour them

in big beautiful ways.

We Write. We paint. We sing.

We share their story.

Their picture.

We do good things in their name,

and sometimes we honour them

quietly.

We cry. We break. We get out of

bed. We try to stay alive and love

them.

We can honour a person's life by

sharing things. Creating things.

And we can also honour a life by

surviving in a world without it.

Sara Rian

I hope you're dancing in the sky

I hope you're singing in the angel's choir

I hope the angels know what they have

I bet it's so nice up in Heaven since you arrived

So tell me, what do you do up in Heaven?

Are your days filled with love and light?

Is there music? Is there art and adventure?

Tell me, are you happy? Are you more alive?

Dani + Lizzy

Although we can not see you, we feel you.

Although we can not touch you, we hold you.

Although you are gone, you'll never be forgotten.

We hear your laughter in the quiet, we see your

light in the darkness, we carry your love always.

Those special memories of you will

always bring a smile.

If only I could have you back for just a

little while.

Then we could sit and talk again, just like

we used to do.

You always meant so much to me and

always will.

The fact that you're no longer here, will

always cause me pain, but you're forever

in my heart until we meet again.

Ecclesiastes

Chapter 3 Verses 1-8;

To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven A time to be born and a time to die A time to plant and a time to pluck what is planted A time to kill and a time to heal A time to breakdown and a time to build up A time to weep and a time to laugh A time to mourn and a time to dance A time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing A time to gain and a time to lose A time to keep and a time to throwaway A time to tear and a time to sew A time to keep silent and a time to speak A time to love and a time to hate A time of war and a time of peace.

The Clock Of Life

Robert H Smith

The clock of life is wound but once,
And no one has the power To tell just
where the hands will stop
At late, or early hour.
To lose one's wealth is sad indeed, To
lose one's health is more
To lose one's soul is such a loss
As no one can restore.
The present only is our own
To seek to do God's will,
Tomorrow holds no promise,
For The clock may then be still.

Footprints In The Sand

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints; other times there were one set of footprints. This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints. So I said to the Lord, "You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there have only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?" The Lord replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints in the sand, is when I carried you".

John 14:1-4

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.

When you died, your magic didn't vanish.

It is carried by those who love you.

Like we swallowed the sun and every star.

We don't tell your story to make the world darker. We tell your story to make
the world brighter.

No one will see that light shine again, if we never get to let it out.

- Sara Rian

As Long As We Can Dream

As long as we can dream, as long as we can think
As long as we have memory We will love you
As long as we have eyes to see and ears to hear
and lips to speak We will love you
As long as we have a heart to feel, a soul stirring within us,
And imagination to hold you We will love you.
As long as there is time, As long as there is love
and as long as we have breath to speak your name
We will love you.

A Cup of Tea - staple tea bag beside

I cannot sit and chat with you,
the way I'd like to do.
So brew yourself a cup of tea,
I'll think of you, you think of me.
A little cup of friendship With a bag of tea
When you drink this
Think of our friendship, from me.
I wish we could sit down together
And have a cup of tea
But since we can't
When you have this one I hope you'll think of me.
A cup of Tea to say thank you.
For all the things you've done,
And wishes that the day will bring you happiness and fun.

Epitaph on a Friend

By Robert Burns

An honest man here lies at rest,
The friend of man, the friend of truth;
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd:
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.

At Times Like This

At times like this
We may look through books
For the perfect words
To give form to our feelings,
Make the thing complete,
Set the matter at rest.
But in the hours of searching
Each piece lies rejected:
Too precise, too difficult,
Too harsh, not relevant,
Implying what we do not wish.
But look into the grey wide sky,
And the thoughts will come
Like this -

Remember me when I loved you most
And you loved me most.
Remember me when I was my bravest,
And when I did you right.
Then let that be our secret bond,
And just once let us rise in the morning
And enjoy the light,
And know that the bird in the mist
Is returning to the sun.
Written by David Lott

Legacy of Love

A wife, a mother, a grandma too,
This legacy we have from you,
You gave us love and how to fight,
You gave us strength, you gave us might,
A stronger person would be hard to find,
And in your heart, you were always kind,
You fought for us all in one way or another,
Not just as a wife, not just as a mother
For all of us you gave your best,
Now the time has come for you to rest
So go in peace, you earned your sleep,
Your love in our hearts, we'll eternally keep

Insert Person's Name

He/she never looks for praises.
He's never one to boast.
He just goes on quietly working
For those he loves the most.
His dreams are seldom spoken.
His wants are very few,
And most of the time his worries
Will go unspoken, too.
He's there...a firm foundation
Through all our storms of life,
A sturdy hand to hold onto
In times of stress and strife.
A true friend we can turn to
When times are good or bad.
One of our greatest blessings,
The person that we call (insert name/s).
Written by Karen Boyer

Because Of You

By Faye Kilday

Because of you,
The world is a much nicer place.
Because of you,
I have faith in the human race.

Because of you,
I know what it means to love unconditionally.
Because of you,
I know what it means to give unselfishly.
Because of you,
I believe in magic and mystery and worlds
unseen.

Because of you,
There is joy - wherever you are and have ever
been.
And all because of you!

The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend
He referred to the dates on the tombstone
From the beginning...to the end
He noted that first came the date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years
For that dash represents all the time
That they spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved them
Know what that little line is worth
For it matters not, how much we own,
The cars...the house...the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.
So, think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left
That can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect
And more often wear a smile,
Remembering this special dash
Might only last a little while
So, when your eulogy is being read
With your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent YOUR dash?

Written by Linda Ellis

It's not what we write,
it's not what we say,
it's how we remember you,
in our own special way.

To My Dear and Loving Husband

If ever two were one then surely we, If ever man were loved by wife,
then thee; If ever wife were happy in a man, Compare with me, ye women, if you
can. I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold Or all the riches that the
East doth hold. My love is such that rivers cannot quench, Nor aught but love
from thee give recompense. Thy love is such I can no way repay, the heavens
reward thee manifold, I pray. Then while we live, in love let's so persevere.
That when we live no more, we may live ever.

Divine Love Cannot Change

Loving with human love, one may pass
from love to hatred; but divine love
cannot change. Nothing, not even death,
can shatter it. It is the very nature of the
soul, Love is life. All, all that I understand,
I understand only because I love. All is
bound up in love alone. Love is God, and
dying means for me a particle of love, to
go back to the universal and eternal
source of love.

Life Cut Short

Do not judge a biography by its length,
Nor by the number of pages in it. Judge it
by the richness of it's contents.
Sometimes those unfinished are among
the most poignant. Do not judge a song
by its duration. Nor by the number of its
notes. Judge it by the way it touches and
lifts the soul. Sometimes those unfinished
are among the most beautiful. And when
something has enriched your life, and
when it's melody lingers on in your heart.
Is it unfinished ? Or is it endless ?

Death Cannot Kill What Never Dies

They that love beyond the world cannot be separated by it.

Death cannot kill what never dies. Nor can spirits ever be divided. That love and live in the same divine principle: the root and record of their friendship. Death is but a crossing the world as friends do seas; they live in one another still. For they must needs be present that love and live in that which is omnipresent. In this Divine glass they see face to face; and their converse is free as well as pure. This is the comfort of friends, that though they may be said to die, yet their friendship and society are, in the best sense, ever present, because immortal.

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vacations to the spirit.
If you compare yourself to others, you may become vain and bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; Many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection.

Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.

Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be.
And whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann

Lighthouse

There may be times ahead when I question the reason you are gone and how I might now fashion my future There may be times ahead that leave me without a shell to protect and defend my uncertain position in the face of new challenges There may be times ahead when I question the purpose and form of this confusing, frustrating existence But there will never, ever be a time when I wonder if I was loved.

A Ship Sails

I am standing upon that foreshore.

A ship at my side spreads her white sails in the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean.

She is an object of beauty and strength and I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says: "There! She is gone!" "Gone where?"

"Gone from my sight, that is all."

She is just as large in mast and spar and hull As ever she was when she left my side; just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of her destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her.

And just at that moment, when someone at my side says "There! She is gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout - "Here she comes!"

My Love

Give me your hand my love don't let me sink into sadness. My body has already learned the grief of your absence but despite the blows it still wants to live. Don't go away love meet me in my dreams defend your memory my memory of you that I don't want to lose. We are voice and echo mirror and face give me your hand Wait I have to rearrange my time until I reach you.

By Claribel Alegria