

**Memorial Service for Patricia
April 20, 2013**

Opening Words with Chalice Lighting

Come into this circle of loss
Come into this circle of compassion
Come into this circle of memory
Come into this circle of love.

We mourn the death of Patricia, who is no longer with us in the flesh. But her spirit dwells in our minds, hearts, and in the way her deeds shaped our common world.

It is good to be together in this time of mourning.
More than anything else we need one another right now.
Each of us grieves, and when we grieve together, the healing begins.
Just by being here each of us gives comfort to everyone else.
Yes, it is good to be together.

In this time of loss, we light a flame in honor of Patricia and the light she brought into each of our lives.

Some of us know her well, some only a little,
but we come together to light this flame
Sign of her life
Sign that together we remember Patricia--mother, grandmother and friend.
Together in sadness and joy
We share her light.

Together we celebrate her life

Reading: The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend,
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From beginning to the end.

He noted that first came her 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 she spent alive on earth. . .

And now only those who loved her
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 that this special dash
Might only last a while.

So, when your eulogy's being read
With your life's actions to rehash. . .
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

Eulogy: Marion

Moment of Silence

Benediction

We are profoundly grateful that Patricia lived. We remember her for the woman she was, for her humor and her stories, for her generosity and acceptance. She lives on in our hearts. The truth of her life lives endures, for it is woven into the fabric of the larger Life of which we and Patricia are all a part.

May all who mourn Patricia's death be granted gifts of understanding and acceptance, and truly find a sense of thanksgiving – thanksgiving for a good life, lived fruitfully and fully.

And now, as we say a final farewell to one we held dear, let us be comforted and trusting that even in this time of loss and sorrow, life remains precious and good.

And now, may the peace that passes understanding,
The peace that comes with acceptance and thanksgiving,
The peace of the spirit that rises above all the strains of the earth
Be and abide with us all.