

Memorial Service Music

Choosing music for a memorial service may reflect music that had special meaning to the person being remembered or be music conveying comfort to the grieving. May the suggestions below help aid you in choosing the music for your service whether you choose one of them or let them remind you of one that has meaning to you.

Hymns (Traditional Style)

How Great Thou Art
Amazing Grace
Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me
Blessed Assurance
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
What Wondrous Love is This
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Abide With Me
Love Divine, All Love Excelling
When Peace, Like a River
Because He Lives
Lift High the Cross
For All the Saints
In Christ Alone

Contemporary Style Music

I Can Only Imagine
Dance With Me
Famous One
My Hope
When It's All Been Said and Done
How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Carry Me Away
Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
Arms of Love
On Eagle's Wings
Be Unto Your Name
As the Deer Longs

Memorial Poems

Miss Me But Let Me Go

"When I come to the end of the road and the sun has set for 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 held 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."

Don't grieve for me...

Don't grieve for me, for I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard his call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've 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,
Ah, 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 savored 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 share with me,
God wanted me now, He has set me free

-Thresiamma Abraham

God's Garden

God looked around his garden and he found an empty place.
And then he looked down upon the earth, and saw your tired face.

He put his arms around you, and lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful, he always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering, he knew you were in pain,

He knew that you would never get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb.

So he closed your weary eyelids, and whispered "Peace be thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone,

For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

I Did Not Die

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 softly falling snow,

I am the gentle shower of rain,

I am the fields of ripening grain,

I am in the morning hush,

I am in the graceful rush

Of beautiful birds in circling flight.

I am the starshine of the night,

I am in the flowers that bloom,

I am in a quiet room,

I am in the birds that sing,

I am in each lovely thing.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,

I am not there - I did not die.

Fill Not Your Hearts

Fill not your hearts with pain and sorrow,
But remember me in every tomorrow.
My going has eased my pain and given relief,
So dry your eyes and forget your grief.
Remember the joy, our laughter, my smile
And that our being apart is just for awhile.
Remember me also as I used to be.
Understand in your hearts, so precious to me,
That I've gone on ahead to dwell up above,
And 'til we're once more together...
You have all of my love.

To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me

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 years.
I gave to you my love;
You can only guess how much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time for me to travel alone.
So grieve for me a while if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.

Untitled

We want not to grieve that we have lost you,
But rather to be thankful that we have had you.
Indeed that we have you still now;
For whoever returns home to the Lord
Remains in the fellowship of God's
Family and has only gone ahead.

-St. Jerome (331-421 CE)

Grief is Like a River

by Cinthia G. Kelley

My grief is like a river,
I have to let it flow,
but I myself determine
just where the banks will go.

Some days the current takes me
in waves of guilt and pain,
but there are always quiet pools
where I can rest again.

I crash on rocks of anger;
my faith seems faint indeed,
but there are other swimmers
who know that what I need

Are loving hands to hold me
when the waters are too swift,
and someone kind to listen
when I just seem to drift.

Grief's river is a process
of relinquishing the past.
By swimming in hope's channels,
I'll reach the shore at last

My Broken Chain

We little knew that, God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same.
You did not go alone, for part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
Though we cannot see you, you're always at our side.
Our family chain is broken, nothing seems the same,
But God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.