

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Luella Reisenburg, Grand Chaplain

"THE HANDS OF MEMORY"

1972
Mary Houtrooper, W.D.
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Setting: Circle of Friendship in East immediately in front of the Worthy Grand Matron's pedestal. White candelabra with 7 white candles on either side. Lights turned low.

Grand Chorus sings, "Abide With Me," while Arlene Sussex, W.M., and Hattie Boettcher, P.M., of Fidelity Chapter No. 13, light candles.

Worthy Grand Matron: Sisters and Brothers, this is a holy hour. We have set aside this time of reverence to honor the memory of our beloved Sisters and Brothers who have taken hold of the Master's hand to leave behind the earth's sorrows and to step into that new Jerusalem where "there shall be no more death, neither shall there be any more pain."

Let us pause in our joy of being together with reverent silence to let peace and harmony in our hearts and to invite His presence as we honor those who have passed through the Labyrinth of Human Life.

The ones we honor are those who found happiness in serving, who gave the best of their efforts to help establish Christ's Kingdom, who lived worthy lives, worthy of emulation and who left a fitting memory for us to inscribe upon our records their names and their works.

Grand Secretary, you will place on the altar the scroll bearing the names of the Sisters and Brothers of this Grand Jurisdiction who have removed their hands from the encircled clasp of our Golden Chain and have been raised to that "city not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

Grand Secretary: (Advances to altar. Repeats Rev. 14:13 as she places scroll on the altar.) "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord...Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Tribute to Charles Titus by Fred Nehrenberg, P.G.P.

Tribute to Jean Fair by Luella Reisenburg, Grand Chaplain

Solo: "Safe in His Hands" by Joanne G. Schadler (11)

Worthy Grand Patron: Rev. 21:1-6, 22-23 & 25

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with me, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.

"And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new...I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

"And I saw no temple therein; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the Light thereof.

"And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there."

Prayer by Grand Chaplain (advances to altar)

Dear Heavenly Father, we come to Thee in this hour of meditation dedicated to the memory of our departed members. We thank Thee for the blessings and privileges bestowed upon us during the days that have passed, when we walked hand in hand with them. May the message of this hour bring comfort to all hearts who are heavy laden. Though our Circle of Friendship has been broken, may we in trusting faith be comforted to know we will always have the love and care of the One whose hand we hold while walking along life's path. Help us to serve Thee in the spirit of Him whose Star in the East has taught us to do Thy will on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Seat Grand Chapter.

Solo: "He Holds My Hand" by Joanne G. Schadler (11)

Worthy Grand Patron: We should not let this memorial hour cause us to renew our grief, but rather we should let the Heroines of our Order bring us a message of Faith and the understanding that Life and Death march hand in hand and love must bear the Cross.

"The Hands of Memory" is built with a link to every member of our Order whose memory we hold dear and whose spirits have returned to God who gave them.

In memory of our beloved Sisters and Brothers who have joined the great Order above, we pay this tribute:

Somewhere our hands shall clasp their hands once more,
And those with whom we walked on earth before
Will meet us in that bright and glorious land,
And then perhaps sometime we'll understand.

ENTER STAR POINT ADAH FROM THE WEST
BLUE SPOT LIGHT ON HER UNTIL SHE REACHES HER POSITION

Worthy Grand Patron: (As Adah approaches Circle of Friendship in the East)
The hands of Adah represent Fidelity, reminding us to be ever faithful to our convictions of right and duty in preparing for an eternal home; for nothing dies, not even life, which gives up one form only to assume another. If we are faithful to His work, we like Adah, can face death unafraid."

ADAH (gives following verse and then places flowers in proper position on Circle of Friendship.)

We place in our Circle of Friendship these flowers of blue,
Which have caught the rays of the sky's bright hue;
And as we place them in memory here,
We think of the loved ones we still hold dear;
May we be kept faithful to every vow,
As we place our tribute in memory now.

(After placing flowers, Adah walks south to position north of Marshal)

Marshal: (repeats following just before she pours from a glass pitcher of "Water of Faith" into a snifter she has picked up from small table beside her. Blue food coloring placed in the snifter ahead of time will cause water to turn blue.)

From this "Water of Faith," may the Blue ray of our Star remind us of Adah's Fidelity and Love.

(Marshal then hands snifter to Adah who goes to her station and stands until all Star points are at their stations.)

ENTER STAR POINT RUTH
YELLOW SPOT LIGHT

Worthy Grand Patron: (as Ruth approaches Circle of Friendship) The Hands of Ruth are the Hands of Humility and Service, reminding us to be constant to the demands of honor and justice, to do the work that lies nearest at hand, trusting that some of the good seeds scattered through life's journey may take root and spring up into deeds that shall reach all eternity.

Ruth: We place in our Circle these flowers of bright golden hue,
To which they were faithful their whole life through.
As they add their beauty to our Circle of Love
May they give hope in that fair land above
Where weary ones rest at the close of the day
After the toils along life's rugged way.

Marshal: May the Yellow ray of our Star teach us of Ruth's
faithful Obedience to the demands of honor and justice.

ENTER STAR POINT ESTHER
WHITE SPOT LIGHT

Worthy Grand Patron: (as Esther approaches Circle of Friendship) The Hands of Esther represent the Light of Purity and unselfish Loyalty and remind us that an attitude and sympathetic contact with others in sorrow is an obedience to the living will. Troubles and misfortunes have to be encountered but should be met cheerfully for it is the will of God. Let us never forget, if we but obey the lessons of our Order, the Golden Scepter of pardon will be extended to us.

Esther: We bring in sweet memory these flowers of white,
A symbol of joy, purity and light.
Our loved ones were always so loyal and true,
And they had courage, and had much faith too;
But since they have gone from this world of care,
Heaven is richer because they are there."

Marshal: May the White ray of our Star teach us of Esther's
Loyalty to kindred and friends.

ENTER STAR POINT MARTHA
GREEN SPOT LIGHT

Worthy Grand Patron: (as Martha approaches Circle of Friendship) The Hands of Martha are the Hands of Faith and remind us of nature's life and beauty, and that a faithful attitude should be a daily way of life.

When we have the faith of Martha, peace comes with our acceptance of the Master's plan and by His hand we are led. Let us have Faith in an Eternal life, for life is uncertain.

Martha: Martha's Faith rejoins our broken Circle, with this beautiful green,
In memory of those whose labors we've seen;
For now they're at rest in that land so fair
Where peace and contentment banish sorrow and care.
And with Martha's trustful faith, we look beyond the set of sun
To the dawn of that celestial day, when our earthly life is done.

Marshal: May the Green ray of our Star remind us of
Martha's trustful Faith of Hope and Immortality.

ENTER STAR POINT ELECTA
RED SPOT LIGHT

Worthy Grand Patron: (as Electa approaches Circle of Friendship) The Hands of Electa are the Hands of Love, reminding us of the love shared by our members one toward another, for our chapters, and for our God. Kindly acts of charity, integrity and forgiveness shared by all members of our beloved Order shall never die when love is continually practiced. Jesus died for us-- that we might know that life is eternal.

Electa: The love of Electa completes our Circle with flowers of red,
And "Let us love one another," our Lord Jesus said.
We know without doubt that loyalty to Truth is still strong
While they mingle up there with that Heavenly throng;
And they will dwell there in peace and in love,
And enjoy the blessings of that home up above.

Marshal: May the Red ray of our Star remind us of Electa's
Love and Loyalty to her Christian faith.

(After Electa arrives at her station, all Star points place their snifter on their pedestal and are seated, as is Marshal.)

Worthy Grand Patron: And now let us look to that guiding Star of the East that will forever be to us His guiding Hand, until we too, are permitted to enter the Chapter eternal to find again the friendship and love of our departed Sisters and Brothers.

These members who we are honoring have, by their membership, their attendance, or their work, contributed to the heritage and history of our Grand Chapter. Let each one present recall in memory the good things which were exemplified in the lives of our loved ones, and may the Circle of Friendship which has been broken be made new and strong because we, who now are here, have followed the teachings of Him whose Star we have seen in the East.

We see before us the living cross and the Hands of Memory. May we never forget--life and death march hand in hand, and love must bear the cross. The same Saviour who called these members will call us too, someday.

Unto us who are left, His comfort He sends
If we hold fast to the Hand He extends,
And we know we shall meet in that "city foursquare"
Where the Lamb is the Light--there is "no night there."

Grand Chorus: "No Night There"