The Rainbow of Dawn

By
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MOVEMENT:
The proper time for this service is preceding chapter opening, when the Bible may be temporarily removed from the altar, and the floor cleared of furniture.

SETTING:
Chapter Room. Altar draped with white altar cloth and with a wreath or plaque of evergreen properly set for placing the Memory Book in center.
All officers in stations except those who are waiting in the ante-room until summoned by the Conductress to enter for the ceremony.

CHARACTERS:
Conductress, Associate Conductress, Star Points and a Reader who may or may not be an officer of the chapter, Three Attendants.
The selection of the Reader is important to give effectiveness to the work.

PROPERTIES:
Memory Book in which names of deceased members are listed.
Evergreen wreath or plaque.
Bouquets of the seven rainbow colors viz: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Sky-blue, Violets, and Deep (Indigo) Blue. These should be of a size to carry gracefully in the hand and to show up effectively against the white background of dresses and altar cloth.
Seven tapers in crystal holders. These tapers may be pure white or may match the flowers in color.

OUTLINING RAINBOW ON WHITE ALTAR CLOTH

Preceding the ceremony outline lightly on the altar cloth the Rainbow shape in which the flowers and tapers are to be arranged, as shown on diagram.
To regulate the placing of bouquets, indicate in some way the place for each individual bouquet. A pin will suffice for this.
Allow space outside the flowers for the tapers to be set on the altar.
The size of the altar and of the bouquets will determine the length of the rainbow arc to be outlined.

WORTHY MATRON'S ADDRESS

WORTHY MATRON:
Life in its changes exacts from us various tests of strength. Perhaps none is greater than when our loved ones pass from out our earthly consciousness and cross into the border-land.
When we see no more the loved faces and hear no more their dear voices.
Then is the time when the strength of our faith is tested.
Faith that although lost to view they still live. That they have only
gone a little way ahead to await our coming.

Within the past year we have missed from our chapter room dear ones who
have gone before and whose memory we cherish.

But although lost to us here we have the consolation of knowing that
"they are not dead, they are just away."

"With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand
They have wandered into a better land.
And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be since they linger there."

Sister Conductress, you will retire and invite the Guard of Honor and
her companions to enter the chapter room.

**CONDUCTRESS** advances to Preparation Room door and says:

"By order of the Worthy Matron I invite the Guard of Honor and her
companions to enter the Chapter room."

She now takes her place in the entering line. (Some arrangement should
be previously made whereby she is given her lighted taper and flowers as she
enters the Preparation Room.)

**PROCEDURE FOLLOWING WORTHY MATRON'S ADDRESS**

**Officers** enter through South door.
Number 1, Reader (designated as "Guard of Honor") bearing the Memory
Book.
Number 2, carrying in right hand Red Flowers, and in the left a lighted
taper.
Number 3, carrying in right hand Orange colored Flowers and in the left
a lighted taper.
Number 4, carrying Yellow Flowers and Taper.
Number 5, carrying Evergreen and Taper.
Number 6, carrying Bright (sky-blue) Flowers and Taper.
Number 7, carrying Violets and Taper.
Number 8, carrying Flowers of Deepest (Indigo) Blue and taper.

Advance East to Honor Line, and observing square corners North and
West, rounding altar as shown into the Eainbow formation, which will bring
them in proper position at the altar from center around the North-west corner
as shown, for the placing of the flowers and tapers, and reading by Guard of
Honor.

Arriving in position at the altar shown on diagram, places the Reader
in center West holding the Memory Book, and the others in their relative
positions as shown forming the prescribed arc.

The Reader holds the Memory Book while reading, then steps forward and
places it in the center of the evergreen already set in readiness to receive
it on the altar.

All as per Diagram.
READER:
In loving remembrance of sisters (or Brothers or both) (reads name of deceased from Memory Book.)

WHERE FRIENDSHIPS LIVE ON

It is only a step from, this land to the next,
Just a step betwixt darkness and dawn;
Only a step to the home of the blest
Where the friendships of life carry on.

It is only a veil, an intangible veil,
Like mists from earth's vapors that rise,
That obscures from our vision the shadowy dale,
And the vision of Love's paradise.

Life does not end when the pulse-beat is stilled,
The semblance is only withdrawn,
But with mission fulfilled,
Every heart shall be thrilled
And life's friendships will still carry on.

The tides of the river that flows in between
Have been breasted by loved ones so dear
Who wait for us there
In that harbor so fair.
Where perfect love casteth out fear.

We shall meet in the mansions of promise
Where a dear loving Saviour has gone,
And the ties severed here
Be more sacred and dear
In the home where true friendships live on.

But faith must attend at the altar
And Love, from the fountain-head drawn
Blend with reverence true
The white, gold and blue,
In the beautiful Rainbow of Dawn.

The Rainbow is symbolic of all God's promises, not the least of which is immortal life. The assurance that those dear ones are not lost in oblivion, but still live and await our coming when we too, shall pass through the Western gate.

(As the Reader continues, each officer places flowers and taper as her color is mentioned.)

In God's "Bow of Promise" are blended the Deep Blue of Patriotism or Loyalty.

The Violets remind us of the Fidelity of these friends and of the twilight of their passing.

The Bright Blue of "the sky when all clouds have vanished" reminds us of their Fidelity to the principles of Honor and Moral obligations.

The vivid Green of Immortality.

The Yellow Ray of Constancy.

The Deep Orange of religious devotion.

And last but not least the warm Red Ray of Love, Charity and Courage, all in their setting of the White of Purity are associated and blended with our Memory of these friends.

The Reader now steps forward, places the Memory Book in center of evergreens on the altar and steps back to place.
All stand while voices sing the song: THE RAINBOW OF DAWN, followed by prayer.

PRAYER

READER:

Our Father:

With reverence we approach thine altar in this ceremony dedicated to memory of friends who have passed beyond earth's portals and are now safe with thee.
We thank thee for the hope thou hast given that in thine own good time we shall be permitted to greet them and take up again the threads of love and of friendship which have been briefly severed here.

Bless this ceremony to our use. In thy name we ask it.—Amen.

**RETIRING MARCH FOLLOWING PRAYER**

At the convulsion of the prayer the Reader takes the Memory Book in her hands, and each of the others taking a taper follow.

Pass to the South in a curved line similar to the one they are leaving and down the South aisle to the Honor Line. Across Honor Line North, turn West and out to ante-room.

All as per Diagram.

As the lines retire slowly, violin or stringed orchestra play softly "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" or other preferred sacred number.

**REMOVING WREATH, FLOWERS, AND ALTAR CLOTH**

While the soft music continues playing, three attendants in white enter (single file) through South door.

Number one carries a handled basket.

Observing square corners they advance East until in line with the West side of the altar.

Turn North and advance to proper position west of altar for removing accessories.

Number one takes position North of altar, Number three South of altar.

Number two stands West of the altar a few paces back, and with equal distance between the three they stand briefly, describing a small triangle.

Number one now removes the flowers from the altar, placing each bouquet deliberately in the basket.

Simultaneously Number three removes the wreath and Memory Book.

They now reverse the triangle, Number two stepping forward to the altar and Numbers one and three stepping back the required number of paces to make the distances equal.

They stand thus while Number two removes the Altar Cloth, folds, lays it over her arm and steps back on a line with the others.

All bow to the East and retire observing square corners via the North door to the ante-room.

This closes the ceremony and is a pretty way of obviating the more or less awkward method of taking care of the accessories following a ceremony of this kind.
Music accompanies all movements.