

# IT ONLY SEEMS

Memorial Ceremony  
by  
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8--10

This may be given under the "Good of the Order" or just before the close of the chapter. The Worthy Matron will arise and say:

Sisters and Brothers, at this time we shall have a short memorial in loving remembrance of our deceased members. Sister Secretary, you will read their names.

The Secretary arises and reads the names. Her list may include only the names of those who have passed on during the year, or it may be complete and cover a period of two, three, four, or more years. When she has finished the Worthy Matron addresses the Marshal as follows:

Sister Marshal, you will receive the list from the Secretary and bear it to the Altar where it will be placed for the remainder of the evening.

The Marshal goes to the Secretary's desk, receives the list, and carries it to the altar, following the line of march generally followed by the Conductress when she attends the altar. Marshal returns to her chair and is seated. As soon as the Worthy Matron has given the order to the Marshal, a soloist will begin to sing, softly, "In Heavenly Love Abiding" and will sing as many verses as may be necessary to cover the period of time required for the Marshal to return to her chair. ( From the time she leaves it to go to the Secretary's desk. ) When the Soloist and Marshal have been seated, the Worthy Matron will arise and say:

The flow'rs are gone, we say each Fall  
When they have answered Autumn's call;  
But back they come again each Spring,  
And how their coming makes us sing!  
For then we see that we can say  
That they have never been away.

Not really, dears! They seemed to be;  
It just seemed so -- to you and me.

( She sits. )

The ASSOCIATE MATRON arises and continues:

And so it is with members dear,  
Who seem no longer to be here.  
We'll find some day that, like the flow'rs,  
They have returned -- those friends of  
ours --

And we shall see that each has grown  
To be more lovely, in that home  
Which Jesus said he'd go, prepare,  
For them and us to truly share.

( She sits. )

The WORTHY PATRON arises and adds:

Those mansions fair, in heavenly air,  
Were built by Love, so firm, so well,  
That only those who climb Truth's stair  
Can all their wondrous beauty tell.

( He sits. )

The CHAPLAIN arises and says:

Oh, let us strive year after year,  
To learn earth's lessons, taught us here,  
Until we gain possession of  
Our heavenly mansions in God's love  
Where all is sweet, and fresh, and fair;  
For death and grief can't enter there  
Where God is Love; and all is His,  
There we shall know him as He is.

( Chaplain sits. )

The Conductresses arise simultaneously. One holds a red candle in a candle holder. The other has a spray of red flowers. The Conductress speaks first.

Worthy Matron, because "Intelligence" is called "Light", and "Ignorance" is spoken of as "Darkness", I hold a red candle --- red, because it is Electa's color; and a candle -- because it is a symbol of intelligence, a dispeller of darkness. It is intelligence which thinks and remembers; so I shall carry this candle to the altar and place it there as an expression of the loving remembrance in which our dear departed are held here.

I shall raise it high because Love and Intelligence are above grief and seeming loss, and were used by Jesus to triumph over them. ( Holds candle high. )

The ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS continues:

Worthy Matron, because flowers represent sweet, pure thoughts, and our thoughts of our departed members are likewise, I shall place on the altar these red blossoms -- representatives of the loving thoughts we give to them, in remembrance. ( Holds flowers high. )

Soft music begins. The Conductresses leave their stations and proceed slowly to the altar to place the candle and flowers. The Conductress shall light the candle when she has set it on the altar. ( Candle on north side of the altar and flowers on the south side. )

When the candle has been lighted she shall say:

Red is Love's color, and Love is eternal!  
May loving, pure thoughts bring to all  
Love Supernal.

The Conductresses bow and retrace their steps to their stations. A Soloist may sing another hymn to close this service.

THE END