



Kahal B'raira /
community of choice

Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

FUNERAL SERVICE





The Twenty-Fourth Psalm

There is the earth, and its fullness,
Founded on seas,
Established on mighty floods;
And the dwellers,
The multitudes of dwellers,
Therein

Whoever is righteous among them shall stand on the
mountain
Revered by all people
Whosoever has clean hands,
A pure heart,
And a tongue without slander or guile,
Who treasures the gift of speech,
Swears not deceitfully,
This person discovers the good
In all living.

Glory and honor
To such a one.

After Emil Weitzner

Today is filled with sadness and a deep sense of loss. We have only begin to realize that _____ has died and can no longer be with us. This colleague, friend, loved one has been part of our lives in many ways, but is no longer with us and we must now mourn. We are fortunate to have each other to share this pain and to support one another through this difficult transition. The tears and the ache that we all feel are very real – and very human. We acknowledge fear and terror in the face of our loss; we are aware that life is bounded. Loneliness and loss make us feel small, and vulnerable.

When such cherished ties are broken the pain of separation seems more than we can bear. We must accept this grief and learn to live with it. And, in truth, grief is a great teacher when it sends us back, as it will in our own good time, to serve and bless the living.



Song: **Ayfo Oree**

Ay-fo oree? O-Ree Bee

yKib yirOw' ?

yirOw'\$ wpy~'

Ay-fo tikva-tee ? Tikva-tee bee.

yKib

iyxjwΩqGt\$?iyxjwΩqG

t\$ wpy~'

Ay-fo ko-khee? Ko-khee bee?

yKib yix-k ?yix-k\$

wpy~'

V'gam bakh.

™√Kb £agΩw

Where is my light? My light is in me.
Where is my hope? My hope is in me.
Where is my strength? My strength is in me.
And in you.

Rabbi Sherwin Wine

People whom we love eventually die. Sometimes swiftly without warning; sometimes lingeringly, so that the finality of death seems a kindness to them. We are left with our sadness and our memories. By remembering the best of _____, by recalling the qualities and by honoring the principles, values and dreams that guided this life, an enduring legacy flows into us.

But memory can tell us only what we were in company with those we loved; it cannot help us find what each of us, alone, must now become. Yet no one is really alone; those who live no more echo still within our thoughts and words, and what they did is part of what we have become.



Responsive Reading

Leader: The eye is never satisfied with seeing; endless are the desires of the heart.

Mourners: No mortal has ever had enough of riches, honor and wisdom when death ends his career.

Man devises new schemes on the grave of a thousand disappointed hopes.

Discontent abides in the palace and in the hut, rankling alike in the breast of the prince and the pauper.

Death finally terminates the combat, and grief and joy, success and failure, are all ended.

Like children falling asleep over their toys, we loosen our grasp on earthly possessions only when death overtakes us.

The manager and the worker, the rich and the poor, the strong and the feeble, the wise and the simple, are all equal in death;

The grave levels all distinctions and makes the whole world kin.

After the Union Prayer Book



Eulogy

Death is not the opposite of life. It is the opposite of birth. The path that begins at birth, with many option and expectations, and as many false trails and pitfalls, comes to an end. No matter how wonderful the trip there are difficulties, and pain, and acts for which we'd want to beg forgiveness. No matter how arduous there are moments of joy, and times when someone's life is forever touched by our presence.

This hour is consecrated to the memory of someone who has finished this voyage. At this moment we may be overwhelmed by the awareness of our loss. And that is as it should be. But we have not lost everything. In the coming weeks and months, our memories of _____ will nourish us and give us strength. The appreciation of what we had when _____ was among us will temper our grief, although that grief will never entirely disappear.

As we remember _____ we do honor to (her/him) and also to ourselves, as fellow travelers on this long difficult trip. In the presence of death, it is most necessary —

and most human — to celebrate the richness of life – and of this life in particular.

The eulogy is spoken





Kaddish

At these times of sadness it is fitting to recall others whom we have lost from our lives. We silently call to mind the names of all those whose absence we mourn.

(Music)

(Mourners stand)

Yit-ga-dal ve-yit-ka-dash roo-ach sha-lom.	Magnified and hallowed be the spirit of peace.
Bay-al-ma neev-ra khee-roo-tay	Let us fashion creation in our world according to its will.
Ve-yam-lich mal-khoot-ay be-kha-yay-khon oo-veyom-ay-khon	May its sovereignty come in your life and in your days
oo-ve-kha-yay de-khol bayt yis-ra-el, ba-aga-la	and in the life of the whole house of Israel, speedily.
oo-viz-man ka-reev ve-im-roo. A-mayn	and in the near future let us say Amen.
Te-hay sha-lom me-va-rekh-et le-olam oo-le-al-may al-ma-ya.	May peace be blessed unto eternity
Tit-ba-rakh, ve-tish-ta-bakh, ve-tit-pa-ar, ve-tit ro-man	And unto eternities of eternities
Ve-tit-na-say, ve-tit-ha-dar, ve-tit-a-lay, ve-tit-ha-la, de-sha-lom	Blessed praised glorified extolled
Be-rikh hee le-ay-la meen kol beer-kha-ta ve-shee-ra-ta	exalted. beautiful uplifted. and lauded be peace.
toosh-be-kha-ta ve-ne-khe-ma-ta da-a-mee-rah	May it be blessed above all blessings and hymns
rahn be-al-ma ve-eem-roo: A-mayn.	praises and consolations that are uttered in the world, let us say. Amen

(Mourners are seated)



Psalm 15

What manner of places
Are those on which we stand
When we are most in harmony
With the world.

For every place
Is holy ground
Where righteous people
Speak only truth
Within their hearts,
And on their tongues
No slander lies;
Where they do no evil
To their fellows
Nor castigate
Their neighbors.

A holy mount,
A tabernacle,
Is every place
Where we walk
The righteous ways.

Our righteous selves
Would pity, not despise,
Another who in weakness
Stooped to lowliness.

Our loving selves
Will always understand
How weakness, fear
And illness
Lead others away from righteousness.
We wait with open hearts
For the sound of their return.

And if we do not hear it,
We love them still.

After Emil Weitzner



Responsive Reading

Leader: We stand at this moment at life's most critical juncture.

**Mourners: We stand upon ground hallowed by human longing,
questioning and fear.**

We stand on uneasy footing, not knowing how to take the first step without this person whom we cherished.

We stand wearily, weighed down by the pain of our loss.

We stand among many friends and loved ones, but our thoughts are turned toward one who is not with us.

**We stand among others whose pain and sorrow is like our own, yet
we feel isolated in our grief.**

We stand at the edge of oblivion and cry out, straining with all our might to hear even the faintest of echoes rebound and return.

**We stand before death and demand to look into its soul that we
might know why all things must end.**

But death's name is Silence; and darkness mocks our most fevered pleadings.

**Cry out as we will, we know that answers are only found within us,
and we have none to offer.**

Yet the lamp of life needs darkness to shine, just as the newborn's cry needs silence to be heard.

**If we would value the light we must tap the darkness; if we would
cherish the cry we must pierce the silence. We step forward into a
suddenly empty world, supporting each other.**

Song: Zaykher Tsadakeem

Zay-kher tsadakeem

Lee-v'ra-kha

לֹאֲדָבַר רַעֲזֵב

Lihakar, bil

The memory of good people blesses us

**May your memories of _____ be with you today and through all your
tomorrows.**