



A Celebration of Life, Love, and Giving

Service of Remembrance

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

5 p.m.

## ***SOUNDS OF THE SEASON***

*Tim Aikins*

## ***WELCOME***

*Paula Di Landro, Executive Director*

## ***PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE***

*Miranda Elliott, Bereavement Coordinator*

When you remember me, it means that you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. It means that you can summon me back to your mind, even though countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we meet again, you will know me. It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart.

*--Theologian Frederick Buechner*

## ***“A Silent Tear” by Gaynor Llewellen***

*Marjorie Hardee, Hospice Home CNA*



## ***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES***

### **The Grief Candle**

*Jevita Cochran, Housekeeping Coordinator*

We light a candle to honor this sacred time of mourning as we grieve the loss of our loved ones.

We acknowledge that the intensity of our grief and suffering represents the depth of our love and that our tears are a testament to the special relationship we shared.

We pray for faith and courage to face dark days when we feel frightened and alone and for the friendship of others to help bear our burden of grief.

We are thankful for the opportunity to gather with others who are also broken hearted and understand our sorrow.

### **The Memory Candle**

*Rhonda Wells, Staff Accountant*

We light a candle to celebrate the memories of our loved ones that will always remain in our hearts.

We give thanks for their lives and remember their laughter, smiles, and kindness, the happy times we shared, and our struggles and regrets.

We reflect on the many ways that our loved ones helped shape our lives and bring out the best in us, and the qualities that made them special and unique.

We treasure the gift of having shared our lives with them, and we will always cherish their legacies of love that endure.

## **The Light of Peace**

*Trish Burns, Volunteer Coordinator*

We light this candle to acknowledge that peace can be ours despite pain and loss.

We light this candle to represent the light of peace.

We pray for peace in the midst of this holiday season, especially when we feel frustrated or resentful that those around us may not understand our grief.

We give ourselves permission to seek rest and quiet reflection and allow our wounded hearts to experience the pain of our loss.

We open our heart and spirits to receive the peace that passes all understanding.

**Music: “*Silent Night*” by Franz Xaver Gruber**

*Tim Akins*

**“*Caregiver Poem*” by Ryann Huff**

*Kristine Brockman, Hospice Home RN*

## **The Light of Hope**

*Amy Tracy, Social Worker*

We light this candle to kindle hope for days of healing still to come.

We light this candle to represent the light of hope.

We are transformed by our loss and now walk an unfamiliar road, but we are surrounded by love and grace, and we are not alone.

We allow the promise of hope to take root within us - hope for solace in our moments of despair, healing of our hearts and souls, trust in God’s goodness and faithfulness, and hope for our future.

## **The Light of Love**

*Terry Leabey, Volunteer*

We light this candle to give thanks for love, which carries us along in its embrace.

We light this candle to represent the light of love.

We are grateful for the capacity to love and the blessing of having been loved.

We are thankful that love endures, even after death, and that our connection to our loved ones and the memories we shared will always be safe in our hearts.

We will strive to love others fully and to serve as a light to them as our loved ones shared their lights with us.

**Music: “*Christmas in Heaven*” by Scott McCreery**

*Tim Aikens*

## ***LIGHTS OF REMEMBRANCE***

(Responsive Reading)

*Beryl Blatchford, Hospice Board Director*

**Leader:** Tonight, we gather as a community to acknowledge our bereavement and remember and celebrate the lives of our loved ones.

**People:** We lit these candles to honor our grief and give thanks for the lives of our loved ones. May these lights guide us forward toward healing and peace.

**Leader:** We acknowledge the power in this holy act of remembrance and honor the ones we have lost by sharing their light, as well as our own, with others and the world.

**People:** “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness shall not overcome it.” Thanks be to God for their light.

**Music: “*Amazing Grace*” lyrics by John Newton**

*Brenda McGhee, Hospice Home CNA*

**READING OF NAMES**

*Martha Greer Anderson, Hospice Board Director*

**WORDS OF HOPE**

*Allen Copeland, Hospice Chaplain*

**READING OF NAMES**

*Martha Greer Anderson, Hospice Board Director*

**BLESSING**

*Allen Copeland, Hospice Chaplain*

*Nothing can separate us from the love of God or the love of those we have lost. The lights of their lives; the lights of this night burn always despite the darkness, chasing shadow and grief away. As we go our separate ways we carry this light with us, into the world, to share it with others as it was first shared with us. May we all know grace, hope, peace, and blessing this night and always.*

**LIGHTING OF HOSPICE CAMPUS**

*Featuring Bagpiper Tim Akins*

***Please join us for refreshments immediately following the service.***

***If you purchased a dove ornament in memory or honor of a loved one, we invite you to find it on the memorial tree in the Chapel just inside the Hospice Home.***

**"A Silent Tear"**

*by Gaynor Llewellyn*

Just close your eyes and you will see  
All the memories that you have of me  
Just sit and relax and you will find  
I'm really still there inside your mind

Don't cry for me now I'm gone  
For I am in the land of song  
There is no pain, there is no fear  
So dry away that silent tear

Don't think of me in the dark and cold  
For here I am, no longer old  
I'm in that place that's filled with love  
Known to you all, as "up above"

**"Caregiver Poem"**

*By Ryann Huff*

The heart of a caregiver is a rare element on earth  
They define the true meaning and value of God's worth

The soul of a caregiver is precious and pure  
Their spirits are heavenly, of that I am sure

The selfless compassion and love that they share  
Provides relief, joy, and comfort just knowing they're there

Their efforts often unnoticed, full of strength and emotion  
Bring peace to the heavens with angelic devotion

Many nights they are restless, their minds filled with unease  
Because they devote their lives to tend to others' needs

There is none more deserving than one with the caregiver ability  
They show peace, love, and mercy and give our loved ones dignity

Caregiver, a special place in heaven is waiting for you  
There is a special place inside my heart that is reserved for you, too

Thank you for everything, all of it, and more  
I pray someone so kind is there for you when you knock on God's door

You are loved and respected and cherished  
And I wouldn't have known what to do without you



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