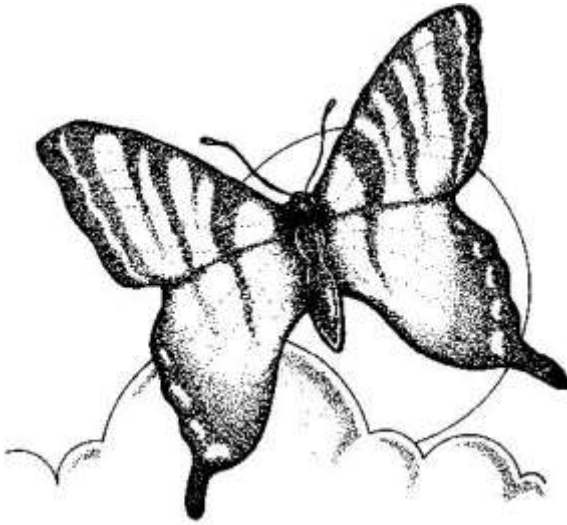


A Service of Remembrance
for our children
who left us too soon



May 4, 2019
11:30am
Houghton Wesleyan Church

Prelude

Laurie Smalley, harp

Invocation

Song *Be Still My Soul*

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Homily

Song: *Weep with Me*

Liturgy of Missing Someone, Pt 1 (*Every Moment Holy* by Douglas Kaine McKelvey)

Leader: We willingly carry this ache.

People: We carry it, O Father, to you.

You created our hearts for unbroken fellowship, yet the constraints of time and place, and the stuttering rhythms of life in a fallen world dictate that all fellowships in these days will at times be broken or incomplete.

And so we find ourselves in this season, bearing the sorrow of our separation.

Naming and Distribution of Flowers

Liturgy of Missing Someone, Pt 2

We acknowledge, O Lord, that it is a right and a good thing to miss deeply those whom we love but with whom we cannot be physically present.

Grant us, therefore, courage to love well, even in this time of absence.

Grant us courage to shrink neither from the aches nor from the joys that love brings, for each, willingly received, will accomplish the good works you have appointed them to do.

Therefore, we praise you even for our sadness, knowing that the sorrows we steward in this life will in time be redeemed.

We praise you also knowing that these glad aches are a true measure of the bonds you have wrought between our hearts.

Now use our sorrows as tools in your hand, O Lord, shaping our hearts into a truer imitation of the affections of Christ.

Use even this sadness to carve out spaces in our souls where still greater repositories of holy affection might be held, unto the end that we might better love, in times of absence and in times of presence alike.

We now entrust all to your keeping. May our reunion be joyous, whether in this life or in the life to come.

How we look forward, O Lord, to the day when all our fellowships will be restored, eternal and unbroken. Amen.

Prayer

Song *It Is Well*

Benediction

Postlude

*If you had a name remembered today,
please feel free to take a carnation with you.*

If you are walking through (or have walked through) the grief of a miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss, we invite you to join us on the second Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8:00pm in Room 105 at Houghton Wesleyan Church (past the church offices, across from the library) for a peer-to-peer support group. The first meeting will be May 14. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers welcome; please no children. For more information or details, please contact Emily Spateholts at emily.spateholts@gmail.com or 585-808-8925.

*For as long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as,
We remember them.*

We Remember Them

by Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riemer

At the rising sun and at its going down;

We remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter;

We remember them.

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring;

We remember them.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer;

We remember them.

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of the autumn;

We remember them.

At the beginning of the year and when it ends;

We remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as

We remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength;

We remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart;

We remember them.

When we have decisions that are difficult to make;

We remember them.

When we have joy we crave to share;

We remember them.

When we have achievements that are based on theirs;

We remember them.

For as long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as,

We remember them.