



Health Sciences Centre
Winnipeg
A Shared Health facility

MEMORIAL SERVICE in lieu of Scattering of Ashes



Dear family,

Spiritual Health Services and Women's Health program of Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg, each staff and executive, would like to offer this simple service in memory of your child, who passed away before birth or shortly after.

It is our privilege to honour you and your child through this service. Please feel free to use or personalize it as you wish.

Suggested preparation and service

Preparation

1. Ask someone to facilitate or share facilitation.
2. Choose a space for the service, for example your backyard or neighbourhood park.
3. Create a special space by gathering candles, flowers, stones or other meaningful items.
4. Select music.
5. Invite family members to attend in-person or remotely through a video call.

Service

Welcome to everyone

Reading of the poem

A Parent's Love

We didn't have to look into your eyes

To fall in love with you.

We didn't have to hear you cry

To know you loved us too.

We didn't need to hold your hand

To cherish you for always.

You touched our soul.

You sweetened our spirit.

You gave us memories we'll always hold dear.

Yes, our hearts ache since you departed too soon.

But a parent's love does not end with death.

For you are our child.

Forever our love is yours.

Adapted from Kathy Schmucker
Louisville, Ohio

Service continued

Moment of stillness with music while remembering your child

Placing of special items

We invite you to place a special item (in a bowl or other container) in honour of your child.

Reading/Blessing/Prayer

As we continue to travel on the road ahead, may the love we have for our child remain a part of us.

As we begin to see and reach for glimmers of hope and peace, may we find the courage we need to follow our hearts along other journeys and possibilities.

As our lives unfold, the good and the bad, the joyful and the heartbreaking, may we open ourselves up to all of it.

May we embrace the fullness of life and love, even as we carry the memory and the ache of our losses over the years.

And may we know joy and laughter and goodness in the midst of our losses.

Peace/Amen

Service ends