Meeting for Memorials

Members of our Ministry and Oversight Committee led us in our Meeting for Memorials. Friends Sarah Armstrong-Jones [Big Island], Joyce Tarlan-Cahn [Apple Seed], Natasha Herrera-Hillman [Mexico City], JoAnn Taylor [Santa Monica], and Chamba Cooke, [Grass Valley] read the names of 28 deceased Friends. Each group of names was introduced with a brief reading and followed by shared words rising out of worship.

I.
We bereaved are not alone, we belong to the largest company in all the world—the company of those who have known suffering. When it seems that our sorrow is too great to be borne, let us think of the great family of the heavy-hearted into which our grief has given us entrance, and inevitably, we will feel about us their arms, their sympathy, their understanding. Believe, when you are most unhappy, that there is something for you to do in the world. So long as you can sweeten another’s pain, life is not in vain.

Helen Keller

Pat Brown  Orange County
Ruth Dafoe  Fresno
Harold Field  Honolulu
Carmen Broz  Palo Alto
Anne Davenport  Claremont
Frederic Forste  Strawberry Creek

II.
Their work is done, their joys accomplished,
But the sharing of their lives continues in the memories of others.

Walt Jones

Lea Gertrude Fredericks Frey  San Jose
Dorothy Hansen  Apple Seed
Onnie Harrison  Orange County
Tynan Sherman Graham  Central Coast
Helen Horton  Redwood Forest
III.
From the Eternal Goodness

I long for household voices gone,
For vanished smiles I long,
But God hath led my dear ones on,
And he can do no wrong.

I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise,
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak
To bear an untried pain,
The bruised reed He will not break,
But strengthen and sustain.

No offering of my own I have,
Nor works my faith to prove;
I can but give the gifts He gave,
And plead His love for love.

And so beside the Silent Sea
I wait the muffled oar;
No harm from Him can come to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.

John Greenleaf Whittier

John Janda  Orange County
Joseph Leonard  Davis
Jo Lillis  Chico
Bob Jolly  Berkeley
Ralph Lewis  Berkeley
Jim Mangis  Santa Barbara
IV.

Birth is a Beginning

Birth is a beginning,
And death a destination.
But life is a journey:
A going—a growing
From stage to stage.
From childhood to maturity
And youth to age;
From innocence to awareness
And ignorance to knowing;
From foolishness to discretion
And then, perhaps to wisdom;
From weakness to strength
Or strength to weakness—
And often, back again;
From health to sickness
And back, we pray, to health again
From offense to forgiveness
From loneliness to love,
From joy to gratitude,
From pain to compassion,
And grief to understanding—
From fear to faith;
From defeat to defeat to defeat—
Until, looking backward or ahead,
We see that victory lies
Not at some high place along the way,
But in having made the journey,
Stage by stage,
A sacred pilgrimage.
Birth is a beginning
And death a destination.
And life is a journey,
A sacred pilgrimage—
To life everlasting

Rabbi Alvin I. Fine

Jeannie Moburg  Santa Barbara
Peg Rein  Grass Valley
Debbie Schwartz  Sacramento
Hanneliesel Reeves  Mendicino
James Sakauye  Sacramento
V.
I share with you the agony of your grief,
The anguish of your heart finds echo in my own.
I know I cannot enter all you feel
Nor bear with you the burden of your pain;
I can but offer what my love does give;
The strength of caring,
The warmth of one who seeks to understand
The silent storm-swept barrenness of so great a loss.
This I do in quiet ways,
That on your lonely path
You may not walk alone.

Howard Thurman

John Shefelbine  Sacramento
Jane Stallings  Davis
Karen Thomas  La Jolla
Thomas Carleton Snell  Santa Cruz
Otto Steinhardt  Redwood Forest
Maria Elena Vidana  La Jolla

Presiding Clerk: Diego Navarro
Recording Clerks: Jim Anderson, Leslie Zondervan-Droz