



## RITUAL AND REMEMBRANCE

### **Crematorium service for a baby (21 hours old)**

*CD at beginning...*

What we're doing here now is one of the most difficult and painful things any human being ever has to do, and we do it not really understanding why it's happened, or why we're having to go through this.

All we can do is stick together and support each other,  
and do what we can to support .....and each other,  
and lay our grief and our emptiness and our numbness before God,  
and ask God together for a strength and a comfort that can only really come from him.

I'm afraid I've got no more answers and just as many questions as anyone else,  
but I do believe that somehow God wants us to know today that he loves us  
and he wants us to know that wee Lisa is safe in his arms, and he wants us to be able  
to let her go with confidence and faith.  
And that's what we're here to do now, to remind ourselves that Lisa was conceived in love,  
and in love she was carried in (mother)'s womb, and in (father)'s heart,  
and in love she was held and cradled and cuddled for those short hours of her wee life,  
and it's with this love, and the love of the whole family,  
that we surround her now as we place her into God's hands.

#### **Prayer**

Mysterious God, you alone can touch the sadness in our hearts just now.  
You alone can give us the peace we need. You alone can strengthen us to carry on.

So be near to us with all your love, Lord. Read our thoughts and hear our prayers,  
as we bring Lisa to you, as we thank you for the love  
in which Lisa was conceived, and born and held,  
and for the love of the family and friends whose prayers rise up to you this afternoon.

We pray for .....  
We pray for all who love them and care about them.  
And we pray that the love we share together now may somehow grow and deepen  
and strengthen through the sharing of this pain.

Assure us all that Lisa is your child, known and loved since the foundation of the world,  
and you will never let her go.  
Assure us that with you no life, no love, no prayers, no tears are ever wasted,  
and let this faith be the strength that keeps us going.

Lord, expecting life, we now know sorrow.  
But let us know more than sorrow, Lord.

Expecting joy, we now feel pain.  
But let us feel more than pain, Lord.

Filled with hope, we now feel wounded.  
But heal our wounds, Lord.

Lifts us above our pain and sorrow and renew our lives with faith and hope and love.  
Lord, into our darkness now shine the light of your love.  
Surround us with all the grace and all the love you can give to us at this time.  
Support us by your strength, and bind us together, in Jesus' name, Amen.

### **In the Bible we read...**

Like a shepherd, God will tend his flock  
and with his arm keep them together;  
he will hold his lambs close to his heart.

### **And Jesus said...**

'It is not the will of your heavenly Father  
that one of these little ones should be lost.'

'I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'

### **Prayer of committal**

Lord Jesus Christ, you took little children into your arms,  
you held them and you blessed them.

And we need to know this morning that Lisa is in your arms too.  
We need to feel your love embrace Lisa and ourselves in the warmth of your presence.

Heavenly Father, only you can heal our broken hearts;  
only you can wipe away the tears that well up inside us;  
only you can bring us the peace we need;  
only you can strengthen us to carry on for the sake of all those who need us,  
all those who depend on us, all those who love us.

Lord, we ask you to bless Lisa, as we place her in your arms.  
We know that Lisa will never offend you as all of us have done and will keep on doing.  
She will never pervert or destroy the work of your hands.  
She will not spoil or disrupt the harmony of nature.  
Out of the pain we feel just now Lisa has brought out of us the love for each other,  
the compassion and kindness that keep us human, so that even in this grief  
she has, in some way, blessed us.

Lord, as Lisa was cradled in the womb cradle her now and hold her tight.  
With our love she comes to you, a precious daughter, granddaughter and sister,  
a child with a family who have loved her and always will,  
and we commit her now into your loving arms...

With your perfect love we know she'll be welcomed with warmth into the Kingdom of Heaven, in the name of Jesus who loved children, and called them to him, in the name of Jesus who died for Lisa and for us all to open up for us the gates of heaven, and bring to our living the gift of eternal life.

Loving God, amid all our questions help us to trust you.  
In this time of darkness, shine into our lives with the light of your grace,  
in Jesus' name, Amen.

*Now may God's own blessing be with you.  
The blessing of Jesus be with you to heal you.  
The Spirit's blessing be close to bring you strength.  
And may the everlasting Father guard you and keep you,  
lift your hearts and fill you with hope,  
in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Servant, Amen.*

*CD at end...*