

PRAYERS AND RESPONSIVE READINGS FROM VARIOUS RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

Thanksgiving Donation Promise

I want my life to have meaning.
I want to make a positive impact on others when I die.
My decisions are my own.
And, they are educated choices about my life and death.
That's why I've decided to donate my organs and tissues when I die.

So whether you feel the same way I do or not
Please follow my wishes.
Keep my promise close to your heart.

I give thanks for all who have touched my life
and hope that I can touch others through donation.

I want to help others through the gift of life.
I am signing a uniform donor card.
I'm sharing my decision with my family on Thanksgiving.

Jewish

We do the best homage to our dead when we live our lives most fully, even in the shadow of our loss.
For each of our lives is worth the life of the whole world; in each one is the breath of the Ultimate One.
In affirming the One, we affirm the worth of each one whose life, now ended, brought us closer to the
Source of Life, in whose unity no one is alone and every life finds purpose. (Rabbi Richard N. Levy)

Unison Reading:

Birth is a beginning and death is a destination. And life is a journey:
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 loneliness to love, from joy to gratitude, from pain to compassion,
From 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 is a destination.
And life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage - to life everlasting. (Rabbi Alvin Fine)

Responsive Reading from Psalm 116 -

I love the Lord, because my voice and my supplications were heard.

Because the Lord listened to me, I therefore will call on the Lord as long as I live.

The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell took hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow.

Then called I on the name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech you to deliver my soul.

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yes, our God is merciful.

The Lord preserves the simple: I was brought low, and God helped me.

Return to your rest O my soul; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For God has delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

What shall I render unto the Lord for all the benefits toward me?

I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of the saints.

O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaiden: you have loosened my bonds. I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.

United Church of Christ

Let us pray:

God of life, instill your love in our vision of stewardship, that others may see your glory; instill your compassion in our hearts, that others may hope and live and rejoice in new life; instill your grace in our lives, that we may boldly give increase to all that you entrust to us, your servants. Amen.

(Reverend Wendy Ward)