

Memorial Service

When your children ask in time to come, 'What do these stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them ... those are the words of Yahweh spoken to Joshua and the Israelites after they had safely crossed over the Jordan River set to enter the Promised Land. They had spent time as slaves in Egypt, they had spent time in the wilderness discovering that God is all-sufficient, they had crossed through some dangerous waters. The stones were to help the people tell their stories of faith, of God's provision, of life.

Today, you've brought your own stones of stories – stories of faithful, courageous women who have served in your regions, presbyteries and churches. You are invited to bring them forward at this time. Their stories are being told today and they will continue to be told as long as we remember them and their faith.

(after all the stones have been placed, pray the following)

O God, before whom generations rise and pass away, we praise you for all your servants who, having lived this life in faith, now live eternally with you.

Especially we thank you for those remembered here today, whose baptism is now complete in death. We praise you for the gift of their lives, for all in them that was good and kind and faithful, for the grace you gave each one, that kindled in them the love of your dear name, and enabled them to serve you faithfully.

We thank you that for them death is past and pain ended, and that they have now entered the joy you have prepared; through Jesus Christ our Lord, for it is his his name that we pray, who taught us how to pray saying –

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be they name, they kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us form evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

