

## Readings/Poetry/Music

When you are planning the funeral service you may like to consider some readings; these may be religious or secular. It may be that members of the family or friends will want to read the texts but if not, the service officiant will read them for you.

The list of readings is endless and therefore the following is only a small illustration as food for thought.

Do not stand at my grave and weep (Mary Frye, attributed)

Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there; I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am the sun on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circling flight.  
I am the soft starlight at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there; I did not die.

Death is nothing at all (Henry Scott Holland)

Death is nothing at all,  
I have only slipped away  
into the next room.

I am I,  
and you are you;  
whatever we were to each other,  
that, we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name,  
speak to me in the easy way  
which you always used,  
put no difference in your tone,  
wear no forced air  
of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed  
at the little jokes we shared together.  
Let my name ever be  
the household word that it always was.  
Let it be spoken without effect,  
without the trace of a shadow on it.

Life means all  
that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was.  
There is unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of mind  
because I am out of sight?

I am waiting for you,  
for an interval,  
somewhere very near,  
just around the corner.

All is well.

He is Gone (David Harkins)

You can shed tears that he is gone  
Or you can smile because he has lived

You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left

Your heart can be empty because you can't see him  
Or you can be full of the love that you shared

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday

You can remember him and only that he is gone  
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back  
Or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.