

Tree of Life

Samaritan Tree of Life Readings

“Connected we were, connected we are, connected we will always be.” - Rosemary Burgo, poet and Samaritan patient

Memories are Blessings by Brenda Penepent

For just a moment
I'm sure I saw a flicker of light ahead.
Perhaps it was your smile.
Though past now, remembered in my heart,
Like the small sound of a butterfly passing by.
No night is so dark,
That it cannot be brightened with memories of you.
These memories are the blessings
That wash away my tears,
And bring me hope anew.

A Blessing for the Day we Mourn our Dead by Kate Bowler

Today we are drawn into remembrance. The complexity of love and loss both warms our hearts and chills our bones.

Invisible connections are revealed just as the light of the sun illuminates the lines of a web, we see that our lives are connected to those who are no longer here.

Blessed are we who acknowledge the impressions made by those who've passed a child's note, a joke carried on, a chair left in our name, a story that we now tell.

Blessed are you who have learned to make sense of a world that doesn't make sense without them.

And blessed are you with grief present still
who carry the weight of surviving a loved one,
of keeping the memories and sharing the stories.

O God, you alone know the whole of it. You know their sufferings, their joys, their hopes, their winding paths and every movement of their souls.

Restore our souls, even as you receive theirs. welcome them in with the kind of embrace we wish we could give them.

Blessed is the time they were given and the time you now have.
Whether in life or in death, love is there.

A love letter from those who have passed on... by Tahlia Hunter

Take the LOVE you have for me
And radiate it outwards
Allowing it to touch and impact others

Take the MEMORY you have of me
And use it as a source of inspiration
To live fully, meaningfully, and intentionally.

Take the IMAGE you have of me in your mind
And allow it to fuel you
To take action
Seize the day
And be reminded of what is most important in life

Take the care you have for me
And let it remind you
To care for yourself fully
And shower yourself with your own love.

And take the pain and grief you feel
Following my loss
And alchemize it into
Love, compassion, and beauty

Build a castle
From the wreckage of my passing

And allow it to unlock your greatness and potential
And empower you to become more than you ever
thought you were capable of being.

And know that I can never truly leave you
And will always remain beside you
Watching over you in spirit
And that the LOVE I have for you lives on
Through the connections you form
The kindness and compassion you share
And the future relationships and friendships you
cultivate.

And until we are one day reunited
I will remain with you
Through the storms and chaos of life
And am always beside you

Walking with you, laughing with you, crying with you, and smiling with you

And I am proud of you for being strong
I am proud of you for being brave
And I am proud of you for being you

Adapted from the poem “**A Litany of Remembrance**” written by Rabbi
Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer

At the rising of the sun and in its going down,
We remember them.

In the chill of winter, rebirth of spring, warmth of summer and beauty of autumn,
We remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength,
We remember them.

When we have joys we crave to share,
We remember them.

When we have achievements that are based on theirs,
We remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us
We remember them.

