# Order of Service

## Opening music: please insert title and artist

#### **Introduction and Prayers**

**All:** **Merciful Father, hear our prayers and comfort us; renew our trust in your Son, whom you raised from the dead; strengthen our faith that all who have died in the love of Christ will share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**  **Amen**

**The Scriptural Reading:** Revelation 21. 1-6

**The Eulogy**

**Poem:** “The Dash” by Linda Ellis

​I read of a man who stood to speak  
at the funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone  
from the beginning…to the end.  
  
He noted that first came the date of birth  
and spoke the following date with tears,  
but he said what mattered most of all  
was the dash between those years.  
  
For that dash represents all the time  
that they spent alive on earth.  
And now only those who loved them  
know what that little line is worth.  
  
For it matters not, how much we own,  
the cars…the house…the cash.  
What matters is how we live and love  
and how we spend our dash.  
  
So, think about this long and hard.  
Are there things you’d like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left  
that can still be rearranged.  
  
If we could just slow down enough  
to consider what’s true and real  
and always try to understand  
​the way other people feel.  
  
And be less quick to anger  
and show appreciation more  
and love the people in our lives  
like we’ve never loved before.   
  
If we treat each other with respect  
and more often wear a smile,  
remembering that this special dash  
might only last a little while.  
  
​So, when your eulogy is being read,  
with your life’s actions to rehash…  
would you be proud of the things they say  
about how you spent YOUR dash?

**Reflection to Photos and Music** [Stuart – please insert title of music etc]

**The Prayers and Lord’s Prayer**

**The Commendation, Committal and Blessing**

## Final music: please insert title and artist

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