The Memorial Service of

**Name**

Funeral Home,

Address.

Sunday, January 21, 2018 @ 10:00 am.

**WELCOME**I would like to welcome everybody and thank all of you for joining the family of Name Name here today as we honor him and celebrate his life and the memories that will always be cherished.

**EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY**

I am Ed Bellner a pastor of CedarCreek and

We’re here this morning to say goodbye…

and to begin the process of healing…

So on behalf of CedarCreek Church…

I’d like to, offer our sincere condolences to you… his **family** and **friends**…please accept our deepest sympathy at your loss.

**SCRIPTURE**

The Scripture says…

*We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace. 1 Chron. 29:15*

And that’s certainly true in the case of Name…

He was only 31 years old!

Just as a shadow appears in the morning…then vanishes with the setting of the sun, so it was with Name’s life.

You may be thinking he was taken too soon.

There were so many more good times to be shared with Family & friends.

You may be thinking, “Why would God allow this?” Maybe his timing was off?

But the Scriptures encourage us and give us hope when it says...

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”   1 Peter 1:3*

God has so much more in store for us…

More than we could ever begin to imagine…

and someday it will be revealed to each of us.

When a person places their faith and trust in Jesus Christ…

there is a hope that is born within them... not only for this life…but for the next as well…

and He gives hope…even after the grave.

The scriptures do promise that…

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Ps. 34:18*

We go through this life often lacking the ability to comprehend or understand why life is the way it is.

What we know is that often the pain of contrast, creates clarity…

Without hate, we don’t know love

Without poverty we don’t know wealth and

Without death, we don’t understand life

We don’t like this reality and…

For those of us left behind, it is difficult to endure the loss of someone we love.

So let’s turn to God and ask him to help us through this time.

Would you pray with me?

**PRAYER**

Father we come to you this morning with a great burden on our hearts…we are saddened with the loss of Name…

and the thought of never again seeing him on this earth.

So we ask that you would lift us into the presence of Jesus who brings comfort and encouragement at times like these.

Help us today as we remember his life…

and give strength to those who were close to him… the strength they will need to go on in the coming weeks and months ahead…

Those who’s lives were intertwined with Name will think back, and recall his life, and all he meant to them… and as they realize the profound effect he had on them… they will miss him deeply.

So we ask for mercy and grace to help them through this time.

We ask these things in Christ’s name. **AMEN**

We’ve gathered here this morning because someone you knew and loved passed from this life on to the next…

So, we’re here today to begin the process of healing…

but we’re also here to **honor and celebrate Name’s life.**

**REMARKS**

Yesterday I got to hear stories from Name’s family…

and I could feel **the warmth and love** they have for him as they shared little snippets of his life. Every time they would try to talk about ‘what he did’ it always came back to the love and care he had for the family and for others.

**EULOGIES**

What I’d like to do is invite Mr. O’Brian up to share a reflection with us.

Those are the little things that seem almost insignificant at the time…

but when you think back over their life…

they’re the things that stand out…

and it’s then that you realize how important they really were.

Often the most difficult of moments, will be the time here today.

One of the things I heard time and time again in conversations with others is his love for people.

Which is why the passage of scripture we read in the Bible from **1 Corinthians 13** is so fitting:

*4Love is patient, love is kind.
Love does not envy,
is not boastful, is not conceited,
5does not act improperly,
is not selfish, is not provoked,
and does not keep a record of wrongs.
6Love finds no joy in unrighteousness
but rejoices in the truth.
7It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.*

*8Love never ends.*

As you can hear in God’s word, love isn’t the absents of mistakes, it is the absents of keeping a record of wrongs.

Let me repeat that one more time, so you don’t miss this…

Again, love isn’t the absents of mistakes, it is the absents of keeping a record of wrongs.

It is patient, selfless, it believes and hopes and endures all things! Love never ends.

See God’s love is one of Forgiveness and Acceptance. Sometimes we have a hard time forgiving and accepting ourselves or we don’t know how to process truth.

I don’t know what it is you are going through today. Addiction, worry, anger, anxiety, depression, if you are feeling unloved and alone, the list goes on and on.

But I love what pastor and author Lance Hahn says. “Most of the things I suffer from are pacifiers trying to compensate for my distorted appetite for comfort. Instead of walking through a challenge, we numb ourselves to it. We do everything we can to avoid feeling the pain.”

See, what I have learned over time is that - The more I say no to sin and yes to God, the more likely I am to overcome temptation the next time.

My hope is that as you leave here today you will understand that the love of Jesus is for each of us; always and forever!

I would like to share with you His forgiveness as found in…

**Romans 3:23-24**

*23For all have sinned and fall short of theglory of God. 24They are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

I would like to read it to you again out of another translation this is Romans 3:23-24 from ‘The Message’

*Since we’ve compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we’re in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.*

**COMMITTAL**

We have the opportunity to trust in Jesus Christ who said…

*“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25)*

When we’re gathered around as we are here today…people often ask the question…why?

What’s the point of it all?

What’s the purpose of life anyway?

He made us…and wants us to be with Him in Heaven…

One day our hearts are going to stop beating…

and that will be the end of our bodies.

But it won’t be the end.

Our days may be limited …

but all of eternity is to follow.

 So, we are gathered to commit the body…

of Name Name to its kindred dust;

…earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust…

…but we are committing his spirit to God.

Listen to the tremendous encouragement he gives us in the Bible…

*“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;*

*I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters,*

 *I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers,*

 *they will not sweep over you.*

*When you walk through the fire,*

 *you will not be burned;*

*the flames will not set you ablaze.*

 *For I am the Lord, your God,*

*the Holy One of Israel, your Savior*;…” (Is.43:1-3)

The Bible assures us that when we pass from this life to the next…that God will be there with us.

See, The Love, Acceptance & Forgiveness that God offers… is offered to you and I through the person of Jesus Christ. You could be sitting here saying, “Jesus wouldn’t want me.” Oh really?

I love what Pastor Rick Warren said through this simple question.

**Who did Jesus come for?**

Jesus came for the chewed up and the pushed around, the cracked up and the put down, the crossed off and the ripped off, the crying out and the run down.

Jesus came for the dropped out, the run over, the edged out, and the shrugged off. The shut in, the flamed out, the shut out, the smashed up.

Jesus came for the have not’s and the squeezed outs, the held back, and the stacked against.

Jesus came for the hung over, the strung out, the knocked down and the kicked around, the torn up and the thrown away. The left out, the loaded down, turned off and used up. Jesus came for the looked over, lorded over, the walked over and the washed out. For the led astray, the laid off, the leaned on, the letdown. He came for the messed up, the mixed up, the past over. The picked on, pilled on, the pinned down. Jesus came for the wiped out and the written off.

Jesus came for Name, Jesus came for me, Jesus came for you. God has never made a person he doesn’t love.

God has never made a person he doesn’t have a purpose for.

God has never made a person he doesn’t want to know.

Again, I don’t know **how your life has gone…**

What you have been overwhelmed with. What **sorrows you have faced…**

and the **challenges** of life on this earth…

or if deep inside you’ve been looking for something you can truly count on. But if you have, that’s the love of God.

In John 10:10 Jesus tells us…The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

In a moment, I’m going to say a closing prayer. If you haven’t done so already, you can open yourself up to Jesus during this time. I will say a prayer and in the middle, will invite those of you in who would like to experience a life with Christ to pray with me. So, feel free to pray silently to him, right there in your chair. He’ll hear your every thought.

Would you pray with me one last time?

**PRAYER**

Father we thank you for the hope that we have. We know that even when life doesn’t make sense, that you have not lost control…and that you want us to trust you.

But even so Lord, it is a painful time for those close to Name…

so I ask your blessing on each of them today…

and pray that you would comfort them as only you can.

I ask you Lord to come close to the broken hearted… and replace their despair with hope…

*Now*

*For those of you who want to take that step, want to walk with Jesus the rest of the time you have here on this plant. You can pray silently now or if you need words feel free to use these.*

*God, I have been doing life on my own for to long. I want to receive the gift of faith and security that you have made available, by taking care of my sin on the cross. To receive the gift of hope, of eternal life with you. The gift of love. That you made possible by coming back from the dead. I want to walk with you from this day forward. I want to find my home with you. God, I know that I have sinned and fallen short of yourglory. But today I take comfort in your grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

And we pray this in Jesus Christ name. *AMEN!*

*If you prayed that prayer you are not connected to a church. I urge you to get plugged into a bible based church. There are some great ones around here.*

Thank you again for joining the family of Name Name as we honored him and celebrated his life and the memories.