

## DOVE CEREMONY

Doves, in the Word of God, symbolize the Holy Spirit, peace and the spirit and soul of a person.

Psalm 55:6, “And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove!  
For then would I fly away, and be at rest.”

We have gathered here to place the body of **John Smith** to rest.

But his spirit has been with the Lord when he breathed his last breath.

So in remembrance to you of God’s great love and promise to **John** of everlasting life with the Father, we symbolically, in the form of a dove, commend his spirit to the God of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. — **Release Dove**

Let us now commit **John’s** body to the grave.

## COMMITTAL SERVICE

### **John Smith**

Revelation 1:17-18, “And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

John 14:19, “...because I live, ye shall also live.”

1 Corinthians 15:51-55, “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

**John Smith** is not here — He stands in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The body that lies before us is but the earthly tabernacle, the house in which he lived among us for a time.

It is tenderly and reverently that we commit this house to the grave.

The body returns to the earth, from which our bodies came.

The spirit returns to God who gave it, waiting for the day when both spirit and body shall again be united at the coming of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

## COMMITTAL PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We thank you this day for Jesus, for His precious gift of eternal life and for the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

In the midst of our natural sorrow, we thank You for Your supernatural grace.

In facing death, we thank You for the assurance of eternal reunion.

We thank You for **John's** life here on this earth, and we recognize that the body before us is not **John** but is merely the house, the tabernacle in which he lived.

We acknowledge that **John** is with You now, rejoicing in Your presence and enjoying the blessings of heaven.

We thank You for making Your presence very real to each family member and that You will especially strengthen and sustain them in the days, weeks and months to come.

In Jesus name. Amen.