

Washington State Grange

Candle Lighting Ceremony – 2009/2010

The candle lighting ceremony is effective indoors or out of doors at the close of the Grange year. In many Granges, it is used on the first meeting of the new year, since it impresses upon the participants the ideals for which those engaged in Grange work should stand.

A lighted candle, partially burned, should be placed on the Overseer's station prior to starting the candle lighting ceremony. Small unlit candles are needed for all Grange members present at the meeting.

Simplicity is the keynote of this service. Silence—absolute and complete silence—on the part of the audience is imperative! This can be obtained by explaining to the group in advance and by setting a good example.

Much of the success of a candle lighting service depends on the choice of persons to take speaking parts. All persons should speak distinctly and loudly enough to be heard. They should try to put the feeling of a "sacred trust" into their voices as they speak their parts, which must be memorized perfectly.

Lecturer

If we were asked to express what Grange work means to us, each of us would tell a different story, and many of us would find great difficulty putting into words all that would need saying. This is often true of the things that mean a great deal to us. When words seem inadequate, we symbolize as beautifully as we can what we want to express. It is such a symbolic description of the meaning of Grange work that we are now about to present.

The Grange was organized in 1867. Our beliefs and principles have lasted through thick and thin, through war and peace, in rural farmland and in metropolitan cities.

We now light the candle symbolizing the lessons learned in our Grange degrees. The lessons kindle high desires. Let us hear the meaning of those lessons.

Speaker #1

The lesson of the first degree is FAITH.

Lights candle from lecturer's candle and returns to place.

We learned faith in the early spring. We placed faith in God that our crops would grow and produce. We also must place faith in the abilities of our Grange brothers and sisters that we can depend upon each other through our Grange work to make our communities a better place to live. We have no substitute for planning, organizing, and being prepared.

Speaker #2

The lesson of the second degree is HOPE.

Lights candle from lecturer's candle and returns to place.

Hope teaches us to have faith in our knowledge and skills and Grange members. May the seeds we planted while planning and organizing our year's activities come to fruition and be received with open arms throughout our Granges and communities.

**Speaker
#3**

The lesson of the third degree is CHARITY.

Lights candle from lecturer's candle and returns to place.

As we dispense charity throughout the community, we must remember the gift of the Grange. It is the responsibility of each Grange brother and sister to invite others to join us in our organization, to gain wisdom and to share their skills with us and others.

**Speaker
#4**

The lesson of the fourth degree is FIDELITY.

Lights candle from lecturer's candle and returns to place.

It is in our communities that we enjoy the fruits of our labors in the Grange. We must celebrate our work as Grange brothers and sisters both in and out of the Grange. Our labors have made the Grange stronger and our communities will be a reflection of our stronger organization.

Lecturer

While we sing **Abide With Me** (*or some other appropriate song*), let each of us light anew the flame of his Grange ideal.

Song

While singing song, each of the four speakers go in four directions to light the candles of all members present at the meeting.

**Lecturer
and
Speakers**

After all candles have been lit

As the great central flame of all reaches out to the four corners of the earth and kindles anew the blazing lights, so today (night) we light again our sacred Friendship Fire for a clear head, a true heart, willing hands, and joyous health. And as our lights shine, we know that we shall grow.

Lecturer

Let us lift high our candles and repeat together the Grange salutation.

A good Patron places FAITH in God - Nurtures HOPE - Dispenses CHARITY - and is noted for FIDELITY.

With the Grange salutation on our lips and the flame of Grange work in our hearts, let's go to work and have another great year for our organization.