

Kay Goldstein  
January 18, 2020

Benediction:

For Laurel, Ed and Leda you stepped upon a path that no parent or sibling would ever willingly accept. Your devotion was palpable and full of grace and courage. You brought hope, humor, lavish celebration and of course, Owen's favorite foods. The path has taken a turn and there is no roadmap forward. May you find some small comfort now and ahead knowing that you were the mother, father and sister that Owen needed and still loves.

For Owen's friends and cousins, you share memories of him that will remain with you for your whole life. Your devotion sustained him and helped him bring his music into the world. He showed you the irrefutable preciousness of your own lives. May you move forward boldly, to live courageously and with compassion for yourself and others. Knowing Owen, I believe he is cheering you on.

There were many prayers for Owen in the past two years. We asked for miracles. Stacia, you were a miracle, an answered prayer. You were his muse, his beloved. With your presence in his life, Owen had everything he wanted except more time. Trust that, remember that, and believe that your connection to Owen is eternal.

And finally, for all of us

When we may be engulfed by a rogue wave of grief and loss, triggered perhaps by a photo that slips out of a book, a song, or the sight of a tall young man in a crowd wearing a Carolina Blue cap,  
we are being asked to take a page from the Book of Owen:

To be big enough to hold our grief and joy at the same time. To remember the past and find courage to live the future. To know one feeling is not a betrayal of the other. All is part of reaching for that crown of love, acceptance and transcendence.

In conclusion, I offer this final prayer and blessing.

Eternal one, we are grateful for the life of Owen David Benjamin Strong, rooted in the earth and reaching his golden crown into heaven. He has sent from his heart his tender, green shoots into the world. May we plant them in our hearts, nurture them, and watch them grow.

May Owen's memory be for a blessing.

May his love be the source of healing.

And for Owen and those assembled  
May the Eternal Bless you and keep you  
May the eternal shine their countenance upon you  
And bring you peace.  
Amen.