

Tuesday - March 12

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

Before Aunt Kristi passed away she gave me a whimsical pair of blue bird earrings. I spent a lot of time with her and Uncle Rick while she went through cancer treatments. She told me the joy the blue birds brought her reminded her of me. It always meant a lot to me that she had chosen them for me. I smiled each time I have looked at them over the years in my jewelry box.

Just a few weeks after saying goodbye to Kristi, Uncle Rick showed up at the hospital as we welcomed Lily. As he held that tiny baby girl in his arms his face lit up. For the next few years these two became an inseparable pair. Uncle Rick loved reading to her, taking trips to the park, and sneaking to Chick-fil-A for milkshakes. There were times when I felt like Aunt Kristi was watching over these two as they brought joy to each other's lives.

This December, Uncle Rick lost his own battle with cancer. The family asked if I would help to lead his service. As I prepared for the day I put the blue bird earrings in. They became a symbol of God's presence and joy in the midst of grief. I felt like Aunt Kristi had shared Uncle Rick with us over the years as our children have grown. Now we were gathering to give Uncle Rick back to God and celebrate his reunion with Aunt Kristi.

On that day the little blue bird earrings were a reminder of God's presence for me in the form of those we love and share our lives with. Heaven was bending near to earth as we gathered that day to celebrate his life.

Carrie Schwab

Prayer: God of blue birds, may your presence be felt in the midst of our broken hearts. Amen.