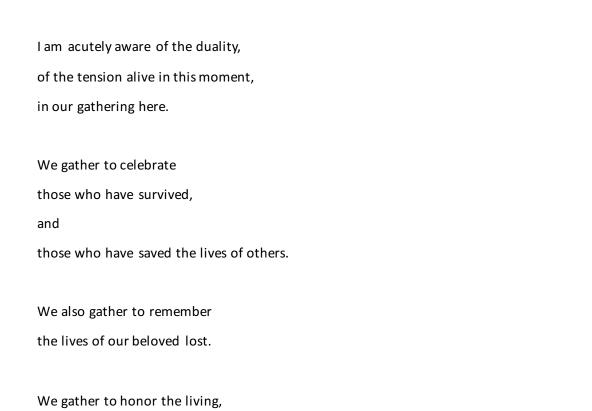


## Invocation from the NYCDOHMH LifeSaver Awards Ceremony

-Erica Poellot, October 5, 2017

May the words of my mouth,	and the meditation	n of our hearts, i	be acceptable in youi
sight, my God.			



and to remember,

To remember and hold space

for those who are no longer with us



We are witnesses to this moment.
Witnesses to the union of soulful darkness and spiritual light
To the union of silent repose and passionate healing
To the union of immeasurable joy and fruitful sorrow.
To the union of all that have gone before, all that are, and all that are yet to come.
Feel the weight of this duality in either palm,
bring them together
and we pray,
May this tension be our life force,
our way forward,
from remembering
to love
into action.



	Amen.
N	My heart is deeply moved by all that we have been able to save,
b	by who we have been able to resurrect.
ŀ	t is also moved by whom we have been unable to save.
Υ	ou saved over 255 lives.
A	And we were unable to save, over 1,362 fearfully, wonderfully
r	made in the image of all that is divine and good lives,
i	n this city, last year alone.
S	So let us remember
t	rogether,
r	make space for those no longer with us in body,
ŀ	nonor the lives we desperately wanted to resurrect, with a commitment to press on,
a	and hold in love and comfort those among us who live with pain and with grief.



Following a moment of silence,
please join me in keeping alive the spirit of the beloved we have lost to overdose,
calling them each by name.
Saying of the names
We love you.
We are witnesses to your life and the knowing that it was worth saving.
Your memory will be our light for the way forward,
a way that compels us to resurrect again and again your living and our love for you.
In all the holy names, Amen.