



A time of reflection if you cannot attend a funeral

When someone you love dies, many of us want to say goodbye in some specific way.

With the current restrictions on togetherness it may not be possible for everyone to attend a funeral. We offer this short act of worship to help you say your goodbyes.

Nothing below is compulsory, do only what feels right and helpful. The words we offer are a mix of the Christian funeral liturgy and original materials.

We make some music suggestion but feel free to use what is appropriate. If you are using this online we offer links to the music suggestions via YouTube, (just click the underlined link). (Where you see the symbol N in the words below, you are invited to say the name of the person who has died).

Time of Prayer and Reflection

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Light a candle, maybe place it near a photo of N and take a moment to sit quietly.

You might like to listen to a piece of Music: (Suggestion: [Gabriel's Oboe](#) by Ennio Morricone)



Some words of comfort

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning" (Lamentations 3v22).

God says: "I will never leave you: I will never abandon you" ([Hebrews 13 v5](#)).

Opening Prayer (Read these words out loud if you can)

Loving God, I hold N before you

I thank you for the good times we shared together.

I hold before you the challenging times.

Be close to me, and to all those people who knew and loved N. May we know the peace of your presence today and in the days to come.

I know there are no words I can say at this moment to take away the pain. I come as I am knowing you bind us together in love; in this world and the next.

So, take this moment and help me know your presence with me, now and always. Amen

A TIME WITH WORDS FROM THE BIBLE

The Christian Bible has a lot to say about the meaning of life and God's command over death itself. We turn to scripture, as generations have done before us, that from them we might draw comfort and strength. Below are printed two of the most commonly used readings at a funeral. Read them aloud if this is helpful.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. (*Psalm 23*)

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (*Gospel of John, Chapter 14*)

(You may also like to look at one or two of the following, or other favourite readings:

Psalm 121

Ecclesiastes 3 v 1-14

John 6 v 35-40

Romans 8 v28,31-35,37-39

1 Corinthians 15 v 51-57)

TIME TO REFLECT

A time to talk or think

Think about the readings – which words particularly speak to you?

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to his disciples on Easter Sunday (three days after his death) and said to his friends: "Peace be with you", and "Do not be afraid" (See Gospel of Luke, Chapter 24,v36-39; or Gospel of John, Chapter 20, v19-21)

What do you need to hear from God today?

Now take a few moments to think about the person who has died. If you are with someone else share your memories together.

What was special about them?

What was the best thing you did together?

When you think of the person who has died is there a song or a special place or time that comes to mind?

*What would you like to say to **N** if they were here now?*

What particularly would you like to thank God for about their life?

A time to be still

*You might like to listen to **N's** favourite piece of music, hymn or worship song.*

Or you could listen to [Gymnopedie No.1 by Satie](#)

A time of prayer

You might like to say these aloud or to yourself

Loving God, you tell us to look forward to a day when your kingdom shall come and your will be done; a time when there will be no more sorrow and death and when every tear will be wiped from our eyes.

Until that time comes, help us to find comfort in love – your love and the love of family, friends and this world.

But in grief now, I commend **N** to you: grant them your eternal peace.

May the good that they have been rest in you for evermore. May all that might have been hurtful be forgiven. May their story continue to touch us and heal us.

And now I pray for **N's** family, friends, neighbours and colleagues; and for each person who is so much poorer now **N** is no longer with us in the same way.

You might like to list people who you would like to pray for.

Support us all in the days ahead and pour out your blessings on all who are broken hearted. Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

(The Lord's Prayer)

A TIME TO LEAVE THE ONE WE LOVE TO GOD'S LOVE AND CARE.

If you are able, read aloud:

N, Travel on from this world, in the name of God the Father, who created you in love;

in the name of Jesus Christ who sets you free from sin;

in the name of the Holy Spirit who brings us all into new life.

Rest in peace, in God's love, now and forever. Amen.

You might like to listen to [“In Paradisum” from Fauré’s Requiem](#)

A closing prayer

Gracious God

Support me and all who loved **N** in the days ahead.

Give us the comfort you have promised, until the time comes when we can remember not just with sorrow but with joy.

Jesus said: “I am the resurrection and the life, those who believe in me, even though they die will live, and everyone who lives and believe in me will never die”.

Blow out the candle and spend a few minutes in the quiet