

Prayers following a Bereavement



This short service could be said at the time of a funeral service or afterwards.

If you are on your own you may like to read the words out loud.

If you are are with others, then take turns to say the prayers.

The service could also be said by friends or family on the phone to each other.

The Gathering

Take a few moments to be quiet and to ask God to be with you.   
You may like to light a candle as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world.

Lord of all love,

be with me today in the stillness

and comfort me as I remember my friend/family member.

Be with me as I look back,

remembering all whom I mourn,

and be with me as I look forward

to the journey that lies ahead.

Give me the strength to talk of hope

and the courage to show love.

In Jesus name.

Amen.

God of all consolation,

your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears

at the grave of Lazarus his friend.

Look with compassion on your children in their loss;

give to troubled hearts the light of hope

and strengthen in us the gift of faith,

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Remembering our loved ones

Those present take time to remember the one who has died.

You might like to share memories, look at photographs or listen to their favourite music.

Reading

Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.’

John 6.35-40

Prayers

These or other prayers may be used.

O God, who brought us to birth,

and in whose arms we die,

in our grief and shock,

contain and comfort us;

embrace us with your love,

give us hope in our confusion

and grace to let go into new life;

through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Thanksgiving

Thank you for n, for all that they meant to me and to others.

I so wanted to say goodbye,

to be alongside my friends and family.

Help me to know you are there,

Holding all my hopes,

Holding all those I love, especially N,

And holding me this day.

Be close with your peace and hope.

Amen.

For those who mourn

Lord, have mercy

on those who go about in mourning all the day long,

who feel numb and crushed

and are filled with the pain of grief,

whose strength has given up

and whose friends and neighbours are distant.

You know all our sighing and longings:

be near to us and teach us to fix our hope on you alone;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord, we pray for those who mourn,

for parents and children,

friends and neighbours.

Be gentle with them in their grief.

Show them the depths of your love,

a glimpse of the kingdom of heaven.

Spare them the torment of guilt and despair.

Be with them as they weep beside the empty tomb of our risen Saviour.

Amen.

Dear Lord,

as Jesus followers asked him to help their friends,

so I ask you today to help my friends

struggling in the darkness of grief.

May they know moments of peace in their pain,

moments of joy in their memories,

and moments of hope in your love.

Amen.

For those who are sick

Merciful God,

we entrust to your tender care

those who are ill or in pain,

knowing that whenever danger threatens

your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.

Comfort and heal them,

and restore them to health and strength;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

For use during coronavirus

Loving God,

Life is so strange just now – I don’t know what to do.

Comfort me with your presence, be with all who grieve

And give us strength and courage to face this and all the days ahead.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,

you taught us to love our neighbour,

and to care for those in need

as if we were caring for you.

In this time of anxiety, give us strength

to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,

and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love,

for your name’s sake.

Amen.

For ourselves

O God, help me to trust you,

help me to know that you are with me,

help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love

revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord God, you are always with me.

You are with me in the day and in the night.

You are with me when I’m happy and when I’m sad.

You are with me when I’m healthy and when I am ill.

You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.

Today I am feeling (name how you are feeling) because (reasons you are feeling this way).

Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.

Amen.

O gracious and holy Father,

give us wisdom to perceive you,

diligence to seek you,

patience to wait for you,

eyes to behold you,

a heart to meditate upon you,

and a life to proclaim you,

through the power of the spirit

of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer may be said.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever.

Amen.

Commendation and Farewell

Let us commend N to the mercy of God,

our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father,

into whose hands Jesus Christ

commended his spirit at the last hour:

into those same hands we now commend your servant N,

that death may be for him/her

the gate to life and to eternal fellowship with you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

God of love,

Surround all those I love,

Especially those I can no longer meet.

Be light in my darkness,

Be hope in my fear,

Be love in every moment,

And give me grace to face each day ahead.

Amen.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

The love of God

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Be with us all, evermore.

Amen.

Front image: The Monks carry St Cuthbert’s Cross sculpture by Fenwick Lawson   
(A reminder that we journey with each other in grief)

Prayers are from Common Worship © Church House Publishers