**Thanks, pray, remember: an inter-generational service for remembering someone special who has died**

NB: this service has been particularly designed to include those who may have experienced loss for the first time, especially of a grandparent, and been unable to go to their funeral.

* When planning the service, take time to include younger members of the family in choices and offer opportunities to participate, as appropriate. People may be invited to sit in a circle, if space permits, allowing for physical distancing. It may also be possible to include a screen, so that those who are not physically present can take part and video and other visuals can be shared.
* Families and friends gather in the space, which might be church, or the church hall. It would also be possible to hold this service in a different location that is important to the bereaved family. If it is not a church space, then take time to create a prayer station or central focus which includes a cross, candles or similar items.
* Those attending could each be invited to carry with them an object or picture that reminds them of the person they are remembering. You may also want to place an individual paper leaf/tea light on each seat if you are going to have a prayer tree or candle stand. NB it is important that people do not pick up anything from a shared container.
* The service follows the same liturgical shape as a more formal ‘memorial’ or remembering service, with gathering, listening, response and dismissal. It will also include a prayer of commendation. It can be led by any licensed minister, or co-led to include lay people or someone from the family.

**We gather:**

The minister/leader welcomes everyone in these or similar words:

Welcome. *All of us are here today because we knew N, and hold special memories of him/her that we want to share. We are going to thank God for all that has been good, to share some stories, to remember God’s great love for us, and pray for one another as we remember that N has been commended to God’s loving mercy*.

**Prayer:**

Father in heaven,

we thank you because you made us in your own image

and gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit.

We thank you now for *N* and what he/she meant to each of us.

As we honour *his/her* memory

make us more aware that you are the one

from whom comes every perfect gift,

including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Time for thanks:** [based on Psalm 136]

Blessing and thanks to God,

Who created our world

And shapes our lives.

**God’s love lasts forever.**

Thanks be to God,

Who gives us friends and families,

To laugh and cry with us

And show us love each day.

**God’s love lasts for ever.**

Thanks be to God,

For people who care and help,

Who work for healing

And show us kindness.

**God’s love lasts forever.**

Thanks be to God,

For faithful love and joyful living,

For good memories

And hope for tomorrow.

**God’s love lasts forever.   
Amen**

**Listening and reflection**

Play recorded music as appropriate

Readings including Psalm 23 [which links to the funeral service, and could be spoken together]

Invite any present to say a sentence about their object/picture as everyone remembers the person who died.

Reflection on God’s story – a short talk that links the family’s story to the great story of God’s love revealed in Jesus should be shared.

**Prayers:**

Invite people to take a moment to write on their leaf, and then come forward individually to place it around the prayer tree, or to come forward and light a candle NB observing all physical distancing. Make sure hand sanitiser is available to be used.

OR

Invite people to be still and draw circles on their own hands, or imagine a series of decreasing circles as the minister or other person leads prayers on these themes:

Circle one – large enough to cover your whole hand.

A prayer for all the things that N loved and cared about

Circle two – a smaller circle in the centre of your hand

A prayer for all those who loved and knew s and who miss him/her this day

Circle three – a tiny circle right in the middle of your hand

A prayer for all of us here to discover more about God’s love and following the way of Jesus Christ.

**The Prayer of Commendation** [invite everyone to clasp their own hands together]

Almighty God,

As you bring us face to face with our mortality,

we thank you for making each one of us in your own image

and giving us gifts in body, mind and spirit.

We thank you now as we remember and honour *N*.

We trust him/her to your mercy,

and pray that you will show us the path of life,

and the fulness of joy in your presence. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

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.

OR

Our Father 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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

Final music and/or images

**Conclusion**

The Lord is here, God’s spirit is with us.

We need not fear,

**God is with us.**

We are surrounded by love,

**God is with us.**

We are immersed in peace,

**God is with us.**

We rejoice in hope,  
**God is with us.**

We travel in faith,  
**God is with us.**

OR

When we are weary and in need of strength,

when we are lost and sick at heart,

**We remember N.**

When we have a joy we long to share,

when we have decisions that are hard to make,

**We remember *him/her.***

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,

**We remember N.**

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,

In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of the autumn,

**We remember *him/her.***

At the rising of the sun and its setting,

**We remember N.**

*Some words taken from* [*Common Worship: Pastoral Services, Church House Publishing*](https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715121948/common-worship-pastoral-services)