

A time to remember



Please remain seated throughout

Welcome

We gather to remember all those members of our family who have died. We have already commended them to God, but now we show our continued love as we remember with gratitude the gift of their lives to us.

A hymn to listen to

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;
come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.
in Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;
be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;
be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

David J Evans (born 1957)

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Prayer

God of mercy, you are the hope of all those who put their trust in you. We praise you for all who have died in faith. We thank you for the assurance that you welcome them into your kingdom where there are no more tears and there is an end to suffering, and you raise them up in glory on the last day. We make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We say together:

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, our refuge and strength in every time of need, a helper close at hand in time of trouble. We ask you to help us now in this service to hear your word, to believe it and to receive the comfort it offers. May your Holy Spirit lift us up above our natural sorrow to the light and peace of your presence, to the calm eternity where you are for ever. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A poem by JE Misz

When I die

I want you to laugh

Like a fall out your chair

Feet in the air

Deep, deep belly laugh

And may the memories of our play

Curve a smile on your face

I want you to sing

Maybe slightly off-key

And listen for the dissonance

Just know that it's ok if you never sing on pitch again

And it's ok if you do

When I die

I want you to cry

And catch each tear that falls from your eyes

Bottle them up, and when there is enough

I want you to use them to water our garden

So you can see that life can spring from grief

And that faith is more than belief

You can taste it, and watch it bloom

When I die

I want you to eat

Maybe some blackberries

Because you love blackberries

And we never kept them in the house
Because they cost too much
But don't worry about that now
Just let your hands and tongue get black and blue
From something sweet

When I die
I want you to rest
And then I want you to wake up
And then I want you to rest
And then I want you to wake up
And then I want you to rest
And then I want you to wake up
Until you can take this clay cup
And drink the fray up
Until you don't have to rely
On trying anymore

And I still want you to laugh
Because when I die,
I want you to dance in the kitchen
I want you to play in the park
I want you to sit in the sunset
Watch the stars light the dark

I want you to fight
I want you to scream
I want you to hope
I want you to dream

I want you to love and be loved
To take and to give

For when I die
When I die
I want you to live
I just want you to live.

A reading from Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation –
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life –
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When the wicked advance against me
to devour^[a] me,

it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.

³ Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

⁴ One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

⁷ Hear my voice when I call, Lord;
be merciful to me and answer me.

⁸ My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!'
Your face, Lord, I will seek.

⁹ Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Saviour.

- ¹¹ Teach me your way, Lord;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.
- ¹² Do not hand me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.
- ¹³ I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
- ¹⁴ Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.

A hymn to listen to

*God of hope and Lord of healing, we come to you in prayer.
In our living and our dying, you promise to be there.*

For the weak we ask your courage,
and your patience for the strong;
stay with those whose pain is sharpest and those enduring long.

O provide for all the weary your precious gift of sleep;
with the glad let us be joyful, and weep with those who weep.

Come to meet your praying people, be with us as we kneel;
come to help us, God our Saviour, for you alone can heal.

Christopher Idle

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Talk

Act of Remembrance

Father in heaven, we thank you because you made us in your own image and gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit. We remember before you now, and thank you for those we have loved and lost:

The names of those to be remembered is read out, and a short period of silence is kept.

We say together:

As we honour their 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.

We find it hard to let go of our loved ones and leave them in God's keeping. This lighted candle has been saved from Easter, when we remember how Jesus rose from the dead to bring us God's new life. Today let it be a sign of the light and love of God. We invite you to light a candle reminding us that all who trust in the risen Christ are in God's safekeeping and are loved until the end of time.

Please remain seated – the Easter candle will be brought to you, and you are invited to light the taper in your pew, and use that to light your candle.

Whilst we are lighting the candles, we will listen to a hymn: In a world where people walk in darkness
sung by St Martin's Voices

In a world where people walk in darkness,
let us turn our faces to the light,
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,
to the daystar scattering our night.

*For the light is stronger than the darkness
and the day will overcome the night,
though the shadows linger all around us,
let us turn our faces to the light.*

In a world where suffering of the helpless
casts a shadow all along the way,
let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness
and proclaim the dawning of the day.

Let us light a candle in the darkness,
in the face of death a sign of life;
as a sign of hope where all seemed hopeless,
as a sign of peace in place of strife.

Robert A Willis (born 1947)

© Very Revd Robert A Willis

Prayers *(Including the Lord's Prayer)*

**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**

A hymn to listen to: The Lord's my shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in you alone.

*And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

Stuart Townend, based on Psalm 23

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Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, and the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; and the blessing of God almighty, who is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and those whom you love and pray for, now and ever more. **Amen.**

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