

## Prayers that have been used in memorial services

### Opening prayers.

#### Prayer

*You are invited to join in this opening prayer if you would like to...*

Gracious Spirit, creator of life, carrier of hope, make your presence known among us. Enable us to be brave in our remembering, honest in our sorrow, and open in love and compassion to each other. Help us to seek not so much answers to our questions, but, rather, the patience to mourn and grieve. Enable us to remember with joy the lives of those we have loved. Send us your peace. **Amen**

#### Prayer

We are in the presence of God  
**in our need and in our sorrow.**

We are in the presence of God  
**in thankfulness for the life we knew and shared.**

We are in the presence of God  
**seeking hope and courage for the future**

We are in the presence of God  
**who has promised to be with us always, till the end of time.**

#### Prayer

O comforting One, compassionate One  
be with us all when we suffer loss  
and ache with the pain of grieving.  
Give us a glimpse of the way it will be  
when love will never be taken away,  
when life itself will not be diminished  
when all that we hold most precious  
will live and remain with us forever. **Amen.**

#### A short Prayer

Help us, God, to focus on that which enables us to keep going. Remind us that time will never erase the memories and that for a moment we're not alone as we sit here together. We give thanks for the times we had with our loved ones, both the ups and the downs of living life, but most of all we're grateful for love which is stronger than death. Help us to bear our sorrow without bitterness, to look forward slowly, one day at a time and to gain some comfort from those who can help us ease our pain...  
Be with us now as we encourage and support each other. **Amen**

## Thanksgiving and memorial prayers

### We remember them

When we are weary and in need of strength  
When we are lost and sick at heart,

**We remember them.**

When we have a joy we crave to share  
When we have decisions that are difficult to make  
When we have achievements that are based on theirs

**We remember them.**

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 them.**

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer  
At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn

**We remember them.**

At the rising of the sun and at its setting

**We remember them.**

As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now part of us

**As we remember them.** (Prayers from the Jewish Prayer Book, adapted).

### A prayer of hope

Almighty God,

we rejoice in your promise of love, joy and peace.

In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life,  
and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;

through our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who died, rose again and lives for evermore. **Amen.**

### A prayer for the Hospice

Gracious Spirit, creator of life, carrier of hope, we pray for the continuing work of the hospice and the Macmillan palliative care team. We give thanks and pray for all who work through these organisations to provide care and comfort to those who are ill or dying and to provide support and companionship to those who are bereaved. Bless, guide and strengthen all who work in these organisations and all who support them. **Amen**

### Prayer

We give thanks for each of our loved ones whom we remembered today, for all the ways in which their lives touched ours, for the difficult as well as the good times, for the ways in which their lives and their love continue to be with us.

In our sadness and with thanksgiving, we will remember them.

## Intercessions

*Let us pray, firstly for our loved ones:*

We remember with thanksgiving all who we have named today. Thank you for everything we remember and treasure about them, for all that they mean to us. Take care of them, Lord, until we all reach that time and place where every tear is dry, every question answered and all things are made new. Lord, in your love,

**Hear our prayer.**

*A prayer for you:*

Father of all mercy and giver of all comfort, give hope to those who are sad, console those who still miss someone special, grant peace to those who are angry. Help us to cast every care onto you, and guide us gently by your Holy Spirit through the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. In thankfulness for the past, help us to live our lives to the full in love and joy and peace. Lord, in your love

**Hear our prayer.**

*And a prayer for all carers:*

Loving God, we thank you for making us in your likeness, with a spirit of concern and love. Thank you for giving us one another to care for; child, parent, spouse, friend or neighbour. Bless all who work in the medical and social professions, in surgeries, hospitals, the hospice, and in the community. Keep us sensitive to the needs of others and give us the grace to respond with patience and generosity. Lord in your love

**Hear our prayer.**

## Prayers of confession and forgiveness

### A prayer of confession and forgiveness

Lord God, I am troubled at times; about mistakes made, opportunities missed, words that hurt.

I am truly sorry. Forgive me. Heal my regrets, and help me to forgive any wrongs done to me, so that I may find peace of mind and rediscover a life of joy and freedom. **Amen.**

God knows our deepest longings. To all who are truly sorry, I assure you that nothing in the past, the present, or the future, nothing in life or even in death can separate us from the love of God. You are forgiven. Do not punish yourselves any longer, you are free. Be at peace. **Amen.**

## Blessings

### Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you;  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you;  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you;  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you;  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you;  
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world, to you.

### **Final prayer and blessing**

For loving the world and knowing our names

**Thank you God.**

For your strength that fills us and your love that heals us

**Thank you God.**

For your presence with us and for your hand that leads us

**Thank you God.**

May God give to you and all whom you love his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next; and the blessing of God almighty, the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you this day and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

Deep peace of the running wave to you

Deep peace of the flowing air to you

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you

Deep peace of the shining stars to you

Deep peace to you, and to all whom you love, always.

### **Blessing**

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rain fall soft upon your fields and until we meet

again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. **Amen**

### **Blessing**

The Lord bless us and watch over us.

The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace,  
this day and for evermore. **Amen**

### **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you,

the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you,

the Lord lift up his countenance to you and give you his peace;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**