

A simple reflection

at home on the day of a funeral you can't attend

It's so difficult when you can't go to a funeral, whether for family, friend or neighbour. Many are facing this in the current crisis, so this short reflection has been prepared for you to use at home, alone or with those who share your home. You might ask others to take part at the same time from their home.

When this time of social distancing is over, there may well be an opportunity to meet together at a special time of remembering and thankfulness. Your memories now can be part of that experience when the time comes.

Before you find a place to sit quietly, you might like to find a photograph of the person who has died, write down some special memories, or play a special piece of music that connects you with the person you are remembering today. Think about those who are at the funeral and pray for them.

You might like to light a candle. Then pray:

Be with us, loving God.
Hear our prayers and
comfort us in our loss,
and help us to trust in your Son Jesus,
whom you raised from the dead.
Strengthen our faith and renew our hope
that Leonard and all those we love
will share in his resurrection.
Amen.



Reflect on your memories:

- What stands out in your memory about Leonard?
- What will you always remember about him?
- What things did you learn through their life and death, including about God?

This Bible reading is frequently used at Funeral services:

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the
presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell In the house of the
Lord for ever.

Now give thanks to God for Leonard's life and ask for strength for yourself and those who grieve.

Dear God, thank you for Leonard,
and for all that he meant to me
and to others.

I so wanted to say goodbye.
Help me to know you are there,
holding all my hopes,
holding all those I love,
especially Leonard,
and holding me this day too.
Be close to us all this day
with your peace and hope.
Amen.

God of mercy,
you have made us in your image
to reflect your truth and light:
we give you thanks for Leonard,
for the grace and mercy
he received from you,
for all that was good in his life,
and for the memories
we treasure today.
Amen.

Now say 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.

Now pray this prayer, which is used at the end of the funeral service to say goodbye.

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory
and claiming his promises,
we entrust Leonard to your mercy
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who died and is alive
and reigns with you,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Faithful Lord,
lift us when we are down.
Watch over us and keep us safe.
Be with us in our going out
and in our coming in,
now and for ever.
Amen

To finish you might like to light a candle
online at:

www.churchofengland.org/funeralcandle

Help and support are available for you
during this time, and in the future. If it
would be helpful to talk at all, please
contact

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We intend to hold our annual memorial
service on Sunday 1 November 2020 at
4.00pm at which we can give thanks to
God for those we love but have died.