

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL



A SHORT SERVICE FOR THE BEREAVED

A Time for Every Season

There is a time for every season;

A time for every purpose under heaven

A time to watch

A time to pray

A time to wait

A time to weep

A time to hope

A time to rage

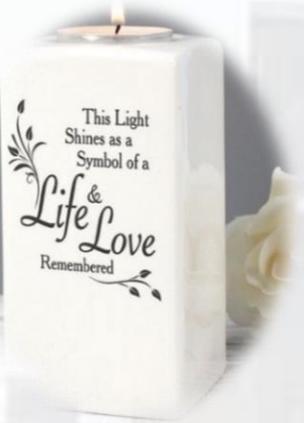
Then there is that time; a time when we will no more watch or wait or weep or rage or pray impatiently or hope in a distant future.

There will be a time when God will keep an appointment with the earth and with all people. And in God's time we will hold our Maker's hand.

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Lighting a candle

Individuals, families, and friends are now invited to light a candle. Then, (if you are happy and able) to say the following prayer;



Individual

I lit a candle to bring light into my darkness: into the darkness of sorrow; into the darkness of loss; into the darkness of feeling out of step with the rest of the world.

I lit a candle that allows me to speak of where I am and where I have been and of a future yet unknown. I lit a candle to bring light.

I lit a candle to speak of love: love known; love lost; love missed forever; and, as the flickering flame reminds me of the fragility of love, I remember too the tenacity of love that lasts beyond death, beyond life itself. I lit a candle of love.

I lit a candle whose light stretches into the future, with its promise of peace drawing me forward into the promise of healing and wholeness. In the light of this candle I dare to hope that darkness will not overwhelm the light and the love that came down at Christmas. I lit a candle for the future.

Praying with family or friend/s



We lit a candle to bring light into our darkness: into the darkness of sorrow; into the darkness of loss; into the darkness of feeling out of step with the rest of the world.

We lit a candle that allows us to speak of where we are and where we have been and of a future yet unknown. We lit a candle to bring light.

We lit a candle to speak of love: love known; love lost; love missed forever; and, as the flickering flame reminds us of the fragility of love, we remember too the tenacity of love that lasts beyond death, beyond life itself. We lit a candle of love.

We lit a candle whose light stretches into the future, with its promise of peace drawing us forward into the promise of healing and wholeness. In the light of this candle we dare to hope that darkness will not overwhelm the light and the love that came down at Christmas. We lit a candle for the future.

Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLOqpJCQ0RY>

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be

**Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning, new mercies I see
All I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

**Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning, new mercies I see
All I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

**Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me**

CCLI Song # 18723, Thomas Obediah Chisholm, Hope Publishing

Final Blessing

I will not fail you or forsake you
says the LORD (Joshua 1:5)



Almighty God, may your peace
which surpasses all understanding,
keep guard me/us, so that I/we
may be found secure in Christ at
the last.

And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with
me/us today and for evermore,
Amen.