

A simple reflection on the day of a funeral you can't attend

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38-39

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

You might like to light a candle.

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 N and all those we love will share in his resurrection.

Amen.

Read Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and
your staff, they comfort me.

- 5 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.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever.



Reflect on your memories:

- ✓ What stands out in your memory about N?
- ✓ What will you always remember about them?
- ✓ What things did you learn through their life and death?

Now give thanks for their life and seek strength for yourself and those who grieve.

In our farewell, part of our grief may be regret for things done or left undone, words said, or never said, or moments that never happened. This is the time to lay aside all those regrets.

For those memories that bring joy, give thanks; for those that bring pain or sorrow, ask for peace.

Dear God,
thank you for *N*, and for all that they 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 *N*,

and holding me this day too.

Be close to us all this day with your peace and hope.

Amen.

Heavenly Father,

you have not made us for darkness and death, but for life with you for ever.

Without you we have nothing to hope for; with you we have nothing to fear.

Speak to us now your words of eternal life.

Lift us to the light and peace of your

presence, and set the glory of your love

before us today:

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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 *N* to your mercy

in the name of Jesus our Lord,

who died and is alive

and reigns with you,

now and for ever.

Amen

We are not alone

We are the people who heal each other, who grow strong together, who
name the truth, who know what it means to live in community.

**If you need support you can talk to the Chaplain at your home or scheme or call
the Pastoral Support line on 07545 652 393 and an MHA Chaplain will call you
back within 24 hours.**