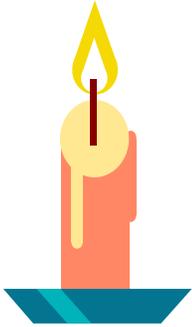


November Prayer Service



We remember those we have met on life's journey

Leader In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Leader **Introduction:**

Today we take time to remember those whom we've met on life's journey and who have now passed on to eternal life. We may have known them only for a short time or they might have been someone very close to us. We ask the Lord to help us to understand that love does not die when we lose someone in death, to help us to realise that the love we have for each other lives on beyond death. Sometimes, we don't see it like that.

Without a belief that God calls each one of us home in God's own time, it is hard for us to see meaning in life, meaning in death and any reason for pain or parting. The world that we live in is moving so fast, that we often don't stop to recognise where there is love in our lives. We often fail to see how love can live on, even though our lives have changed through death. Today we take a little time to remember those we have lost and remind ourselves of the love they have brought to our lives.

For a few moments, let us quietly call to mind all those we wish to remember today

Hymn/Music

Reader 1 **Adaptation of an old Hebrew Prayer**

For each of us life is like a journey.

Birth is the beginning of this journey
and death is not the end but the destination.
It is a journey which takes us from youth to age,
from innocence to awareness, from ignorance to knowledge,
from foolishness to wisdom, from weakness to strength,
from loneliness to friendship, from pain to compassion,
from defeat to victory,
until, looking backward or ahead,
we see that victory does not lie at some point along the way
but in having made the journey stage by stage.

Having met the people we did on their journey
and having loved those dearest to us, has made life most worthwhile.

Instrumental Music

Leader Let us now write down the names of those we wish to remember during this prayer time.
Pieces of paper with string attached are now handed out upon which people may write the names of their loved ones who have died

Reader 2 We remember them at the rising of the sun and at its going down.
We remember them at the blowing of wind and the chill of winter.
We remember them 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.
We remember them at the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn.
We remember them at the beginning of the year and when it ends.
We remember them as long as we live, they too will live,
for they are now a part of us as we remember them.

Reader 3 *Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

For everything there is a season,
and a time for everything under Heaven
A time to be born and a time to die
A time to be planted and a time to pick up what is planted.
A time to kill and a time to heal.
A time to tear down and a time to build up.
A time to weep and a time to laugh.
A time to mourn and a time to dance.
A time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together.
A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.
A time to seek and a time to lose.
A time to keep and a time to cast away.
A time to be silent and a time to speak.
A time to love and a time to hate.
A time to war and a time for peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

- Reader 4** For all the people we know and love who have died and whom we remember today. In baptism they were given the pledge of eternal life, may they now enjoy a happy life with God.
Lord hear us.
- Reader 4** For all the people who are sad because someone they love has died, that they may receive the help, comfort and support they need.
Lord hear us.
- Reader 4** For all of us who have come together to pray, that we may be thankful for the gift of life and the love that we have received from those who are no longer with us.
Lord hear us.
- Reader 4** For all people who do not have faith, that they may receive hope from our friendship and support.
Lord hear us.
- Reader 4** For all people who suffer because of illness or old age, may they have the peace that comes from God.
Lord hear us
- Reader 4** For our own personal intentions.....
Lord hear us.

Leader Conscious that we are all sisters and brothers of one another and of Jesus, together we say:
Our Father.....

Final Prayer:

Leader May we always recognise the power of love in our lives.
May we always remember that we are never alone
that we are always connected to others past and present
with the eternal rhythm of the God of the universe.

All Amen

Leader May we realise that each of our lives are unique
and although we have lost some of our loved ones
we still have our own role to play in life today and into the future.

All Amen

Leader May we learn to see ourselves
with the same delight and joy with which God looks at us at every moment.

All Amen

Leader **Let us go from this time of prayer together in peace.**

All Amen

Hymn/Music

The pieces of paper with the names of the people we wish to remember during this month of November can now be hung on the Remembrance Tree in the Front Hall of the school, community centre, nursing home etc.