Liturgy of Remembrance - November

Preparations: Welcome at door-

All invited to write the name of their family in “Remembrance Book.

Each person receives a symbol (Autumn Leaf),

Liturgy Booklet,

Name tags (name of their loved one)

Leader: Words of Welcome

You are all very welcome to our liturgy of remembrance for all our loved ones who have died, for those we have had the privilege of knowing and loving as we shared our lives with them. The cherished memories that we have of them can never fade because we carry what they meant to us deep in our hearts. We each have our own personal memories, the happy and the sad.

Everyone loves to be remembered. If we want to be remembered we have a duty to remember. Memory is a powerful thing. It keeps the past alive. Those we loved never die. So let us spend time now with our memories of the loved ones we have lost.

Tonight, we are gathered here as a family of faith to honour all our loved ones who have gone before us...the nameless, anonymous good people in your family and mine, who have earned a place in heaven by the sanctity of their lives. It is a very special evening...it is both a celebration and a challenge, it is a celebration for those who are above and a challenge to those of us who are gathered here tonight....Let us respond as a community to that challenge by “remembering and cherishing our loved ones memories here tonight.....

This evening, we remember a mother, a father, a husband, a wife, a grandfather, a grandmother, a son, a daughter, a brother, a sister, a friend....The cherished memories that we have of them never fade because we carry what they meant to us deep in our hearts...We each have our own personal memories, both the happy and the sad....

Tonight, we invite you to put a name on those loved ones, a name on those memories and share them with your family of faith that has gathered here alongside you this evening....a family that shares in your experience of loss and grief, a family that understands your pain and a family that like you has come along this evening to find some hope....

In just a moment, we will invite you to come forward with the name tags of your loved ones ...by placing the name tags on our sacred tree of remembrance, we are making a public and private expression of trust that our loved ones are safe in God’s care

As you begin to come forward, I will call out the list of family names already included in our book of remembrance.....we pray a silent prayer in our hearts for all those we have gathered here to remember tonight...

Please feel free to begin coming forward with your name tags
Opening Hymn

Leader: Opening Prayer

Tender and Loving God we gather tonight to give thanks for the gift of life and the gift of those whom we have lost. We ask your healing presence be with those who mourn today. Keep them safely in your care. Accept our prayers for those who have died in Christ and who are buried with him in the hope of rising again. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Litany of Praise

Lord Jesus, you reach out a hand to those in need of comfort and hope.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Lord Jesus you welcome all of us to your table.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus, you reach out the hand of forgiveness and healing.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus you gave up your life to save us and rose from the dead so that we too could have eternal life.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Reader One: Romans 8:38-39

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power, nor the heights not the depths, nor any created thing whatever, will be able to come between us and the love of God, known to us in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm (Sung)
Reader 2 - John 14:5-7

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus said, ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father too. From this moment you know him and you have seen him’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Guided Reflection – use of symbol – Leaves

(Background: Quiet Music)

In the quiet of this evening I invite you to be still and relax...Sit comfortably on your chair, feet flat on the floor, your eyes closed and begin to shut out the noises and concerns around you right now...Try to let go of the busyness of the day and all the activities that made up your day....and relax...Focus on yourself....Be aware of the music in the background....if you feel comfortable doing so, close your eyes gently.... focus on yourself....take these few moments to be with your thoughts and feelings tonight....Become aware of your breathing and its natural rhythm, breathing in...and breathing out with long deep breaths..breathing out the tensions and tiredness you may feel...feel yourself been drawn further and further into your inner self as if there is a deep well away down into which you will enter....

Holding in your hand the leaf that you received this evening...I invite you to enter into the peace and quiet of this sacred space.....you might like to smell the leaf, feel it, notice its shape, colour, size..feel its sharpness and its smoothness....Tonight I invite you to see this leaf as a symbol of your memories, your love of the person you are remembering here especially at this service....in your mind’s eye now see that person...name him or her to yourself...what are the qualities...influence your life...allow the special memories of this person to come to your mind....happy memories...sad memories...good or not so good...things you’ve shared...what you did together...places you’ve been.....friends you’ve shared together...let your mind be flooded with images of memorable times with this person....

See in this leaf that you are holding a symbol of memories you now recall and want to treasure...as you hold that flower so gently and carefully, so too God is holding you and your loved one gently and carefully in his hands...

Perhaps there is something you want to say to this person now, that you haven’t had a chance to say...do so in the quietness of your heart....Maybe there’s something that person wants to say to you...what might that be....listen in the silence of your heart....
Now hold these memories of your loved ones out to Jesus, your friend and healer....pour out your feelings of sorrow and sadness...ask God to enter into the deep pain that’s in your life at this time....

Visualise Jesus welcoming you and comforting you...See Jesus take your memories, your feelings very gently...hear him reassuring you that he does care about you...that he does understand your deep feeling of loss...he is reassuring you that your loved one is now at peace with him...is now welcomed home fully to God...see in your mind’s eye that person being at rest, at home in the arms of God....

Allow God’s peace to fill your heart and mind now...rest in the comfort of God’s gentle care...we take our loved ones by the hand and lead them to you, God of love....accept our love and thanksgiving as we give them into your loving care...

Take our sad and aching hearts and comfort us...

God of the sorrowing draw near....

**Hymn:**

Intercessions

Response: Lord Graciously Hear Us

For those struggling with the many faces of grief, those who are stuck in shock, anger, fear, or sorrow. May god’s peace and consolation give them the courage to move through their grief.

Lord Hear Us.

We place in God’s loving arms all who have died and we pray that he will bring them to a place of peace and happiness.

Lord Hear Us

We pause to remember our loved ones...we give praise and thanks to God for all the Joy they have brought to our lives and we ask that we will continue to draw strength from their goodness.

Lord Hear Us

We ask the Lord to heal all our sad memories , memories of pain or hurt or neglect, and we ask for the strength to forgive and to let go of all our pain.

Lord Hear Us

For all the young people who have died. We remember in particular those who have died suddenly, those who have died by suicide or accident or in a violent way. May the Lord bring them to a place of light, peace, and healing.

Lord Hear Us
Reflection

When I am Gone

"When I am gone, release me. Let me go.
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn’t tie yourself to me with tears.
Be happy that we had so many beautiful years.
I gave to you my love. You can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it’s time I travelled on alone.
So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must.
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It’s only for a while that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.
I won’t be far away, for life goes on.
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can’t see or touch me, I'll be near.
And if you listen with your heart,
You’ll hear all my love around you soft and clear.
And then, when you must come this way alone,
I’ll greet you with a smile and say welcome home

Leader: Closing words/ Prayer: God, thank you for the special people in our lives whom we are remembering here tonight...We thank you that you are a compassionate God who walks with us in the our dark moments of grief and loneliness...We are thankful for all who continue to love and support us through our grief...Continue to be a light for us, giving us hope, direction and courage...May we now live our lives treasuring the memories of those special people we have known and loved and help us to bring light and hope to others...We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen

Closing Hymn