



The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
 He makes me 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 your 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 loving mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in every generation. From everlasting to everlasting you are God. You stand beside us in every experience of joy or sorrow, happiness or desolation. As we walk through death's dark valley, help us to trust in your steadfast love until the day dawns, the morning stars sing together, and the whole creation shouts your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now give thanks to God for their life and ask for strength for yourself and those who grieve. Think about those who would want to be at the funeral and pray for them.

Eternal God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away; we praise you for all your servants departed this life in your faith and love, especially for N,...We give thanks for all your goodness towards him/her; all he/she accomplished by your grace; and all that he/she was to those who loved him/her. And now help us to say goodbye: we praise you that for him/her sorrow and sickness are ended, death itself is past, and he/she lives for ever in your love and care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rest eternal grant to him/her, O Lord,
 and let light perpetual shine upon him/her.

Now say the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours
 now and for ever.
 Amen.

(or)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come;
 thy will be done;
 on earth as it is
 Forgive us our sins

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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.

O God, who gives us life and in whose arms we die, we entrust **N** to your safe keeping in the faith of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Receive one of your own, one in whom you have been at work, who carries with **him/her** our love. Welcome **him/her** into your presence, into the rest of everlasting peace and into the company of all the saints. Living God, in the mystery of your eternity, we are not separated from... for your love holds us together. While we live **he/she** will not be forgotten among us. In your eternal love, **he/she/he/s**

O God in whom sinners find mercy
and the saints find joy,
we pray to you for our **sister/brother N**,
s/he may be delivered from the bonds of death.
Admit **her/him** to the joyful company of the saints
and raise **her/him** on the last day
to rejoice in your presence forever. Amen.

Order of Christian Funerals

Reading

For thousands of years Jews and Christians have drawn strength from the ancient poem known to us as Psalm 23. The Psalmist wrote:

The Lord is my shepherd ...

Prayers

We have a time now for prayer if you are religious, quiet contemplation if you are not.

Eternal God,
before whose face the generations rise and pass away: we praise you for all your servants
departed this life in your faith and love,
especially for **N**,
whom today we commend into your sure keeping;
each of us recalling in a moment of silence
what **s/he** has meant to us (**long pause**).
And now we praise you that for **her/him**
sorrow and sickness are ended,
death itself is passed and **s/he** lives for ever
in your love and care.

O God, who brought us to birth,
and in whose arms we die,
in our grief and shock,
contain and comfort us,
embrace us with your love,
give us hope in our confusion,
and grace to let go into new life,
through Jesus Christ. Amen

URC Service Book

The Committal

In sure and certain hope
of resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ
we commend to Almighty God our **sister/brother N**
and we commit **her/his** body
to the ground (**to be cremated**)
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless **her/him**,
the Lord make his face shine upon **her/him**,
and be gracious to **her/him**,
the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon **her/him** and give **her/him** peace.

Order of Christian Funerals

S/he is Gone

You can shed tears that **s/he** is gone
Or you can smile because **s/he** has lived
You can close your eyes and pray that **s/he** will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that **s/he** has left
Your heart can be empty because you can't see **her/him**
Or you can be full of the love that you shared
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday
You can remember **her/him** and only that **s/he** is gone
Or you can cherish **her/his** memory and let it live on

You can cry and close your mind,
be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what **s/he** would want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

David Harkins

Blessing

May the love of God
and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
bless and console you
and gently wipe away every tear from your eyes.
And may the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you, and all whom you love,
now and always, Amen

Adapted from Order for Christian Funerals



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The Entrance

Hymn /Music

Gathering

We have come together today to gather with each other and to give thanks and praise for the life of **(name)**. We have come to pray for the comfort and strength promised to us.

Whoever we believe God to be, or in whatever universal Spirit we believe as we gather, we can take comfort from the strength of commitment in this chapel today.

We have all made a statement by being here. We say our farewell in hopes that (name) knew joy. We honour (name's) life by taking the time out of our lives to be here. And, somehow, we hope to have more sense of life by acknowledging and honouring this death.

Tribute to the person

We hear much about (pronoun) now, from (whomever says this).

Hymn/Music

Prayers

O Spirit of all creation, who brought us all to birth and in whose love we will die, in our grief and shock contain and comfort us; embrace us with your love, give us hope in our confusion and grace to let go.

In your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. O Love, with whom every generation rises and passes away, we recall so many people departed this life, especially, today, (name), whom today we commend into your sure keeping.

We give thanks for all your good (obnfê q A hi^ , to— iê y, we W m ... l yom, , whi^
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Commendation and Farewell

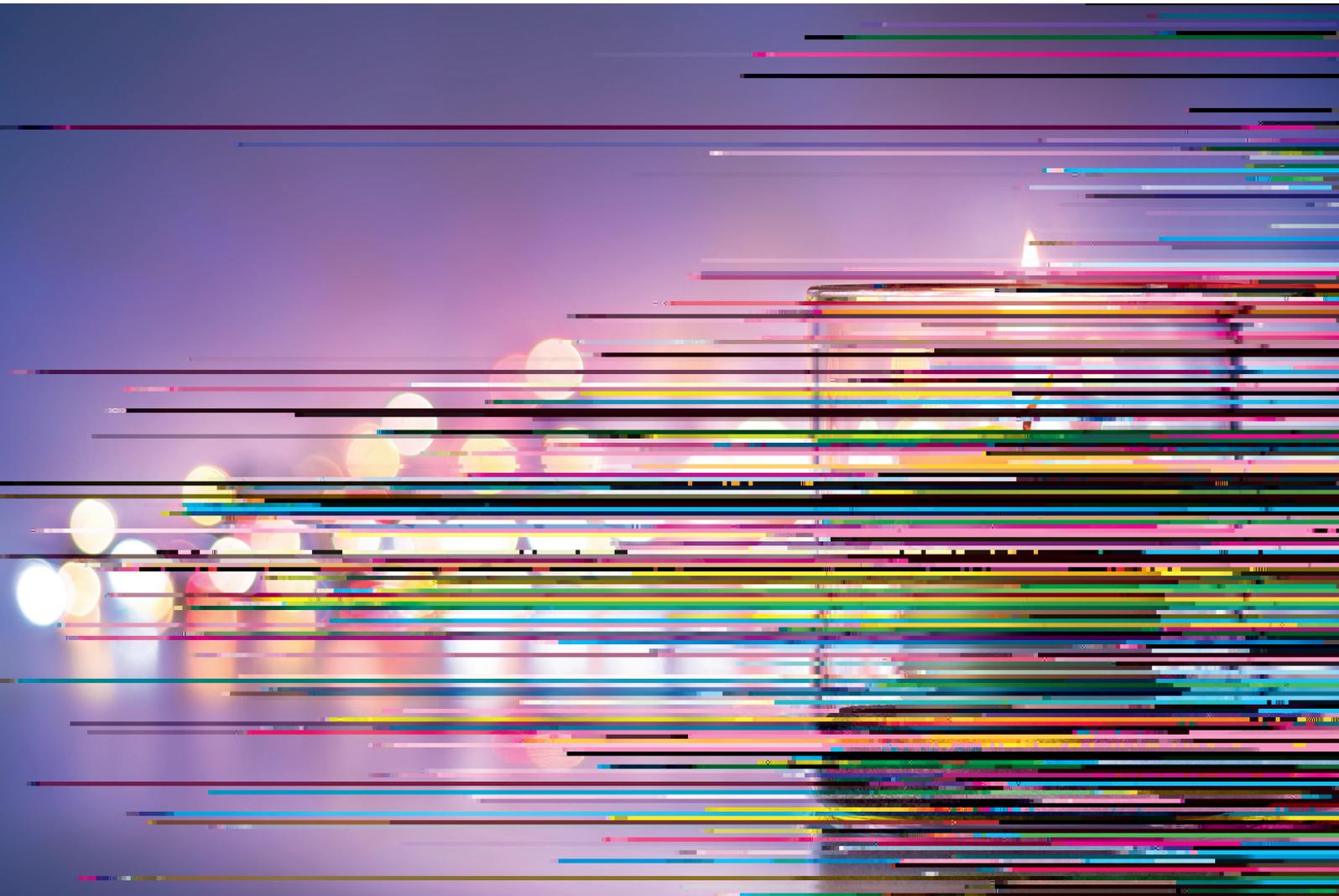
We commend **N** to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory and claiming his promises,
with those in **(place)** 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.

Concluding prayer/ Blessing

Taken from (and adapted) *Common Worship: Pastoral Services*, material from which is included here, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.



2 Useful advice to be passed on to relatives

Sadness, Grief and Being there (taken from www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/sadness-grief-and-being-there)

If someone you love dies in the next few days, of whatever cause, it may still be possible to have a small funeral held at a graveside or a crematorium led by a minister.

What happens at a funeral

During a funeral there are five things that happen:

- 1) You give thanks for all that the person meant to you
- 2) You find hope for tomorrow, drawing strength from the presence of friends and from God
- 3) The person is commended into God's care
- 4) The body is committed to be buried or cremated.
- 5) You say your last farewell to a person's physical body.

If you are unable to go to a funeral which is still happening with others attending:

You could watch online if the funeral is live-streamed. The family or undertaker would be able to tell you.

Take a few moments to think, write, or draw some of your memories of the person.

For more information, see the list of resources on the website.

Going through grief is sometimes described as a journey. Like a journey, it is a process and so involves changes over time. But, unlike most journeys, it doesn't really have a clear end point. And even its starting point can sometimes be vague. Each grief journey is unique, affected by many things, including: the circumstances of the death, the relationships of the people involved and the personality and past experiences of the person who has been bereaved.

The process of grief takes longer for some people than for others.

The grief journey may be longer if the death:
occurred without warning
involved a child
was particularly horrifying or
is not certain or has no clear focus e.g. if a person has gone missing.

Starting the journey

A sudden, unexpected death means that the start of the grief journey is clear. But, when death follows a long illness, the grieving process may begin gradually, before the person has died.

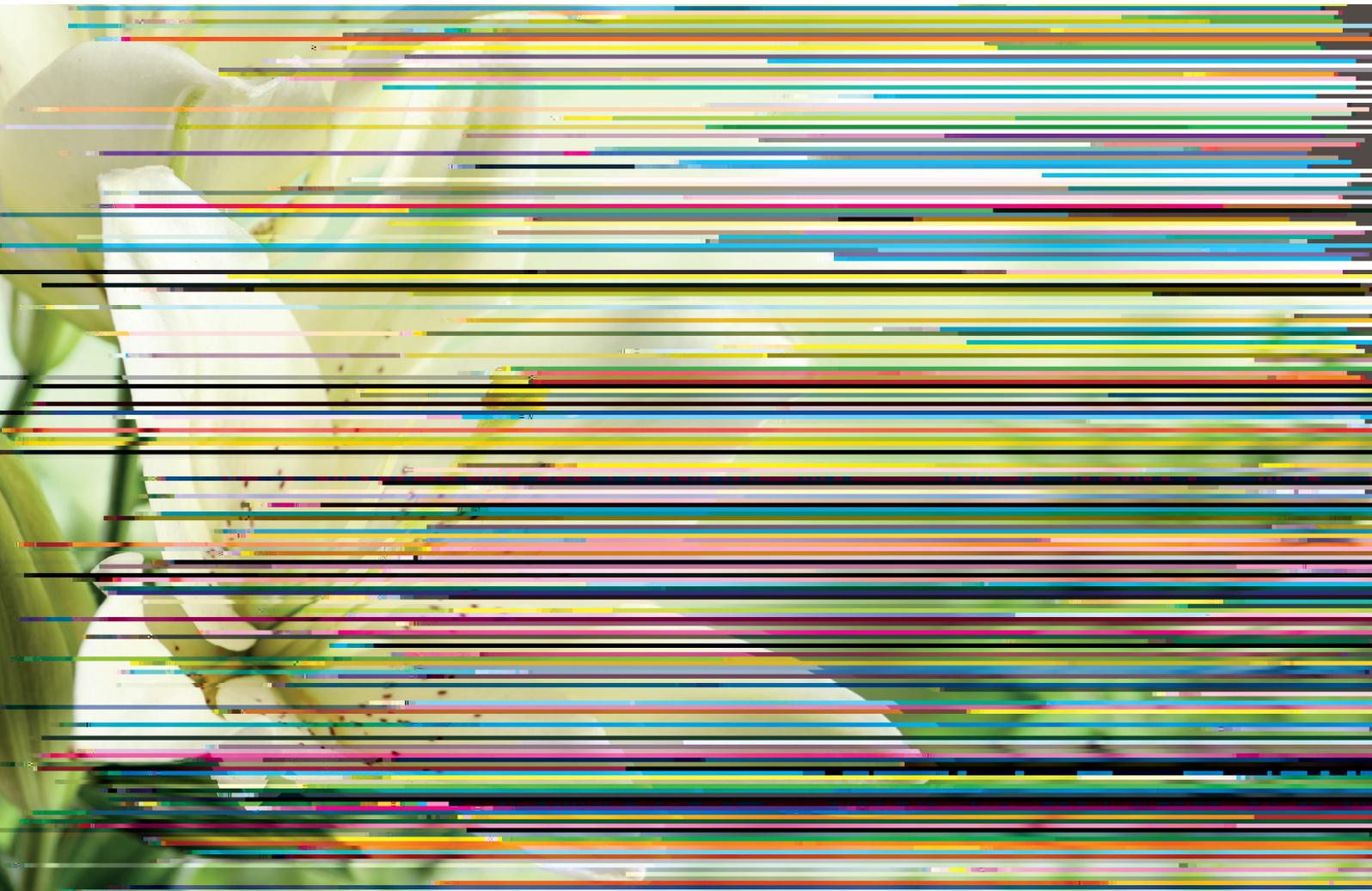
At the time of a bereavement, people often say they feel numb. They may 'feel in limbo' during the

A prayer

God, who knows all our circumstances,
we offer our thanks for the life of...
for all the love *s/he* found through family and friends,
for the beauty and wonder of your created world,
for all that brought joy to *his/her* heart.
We offer up to you the mystery of dying,
our anger and bewilderment,
our pain and sorrow at loss,
our vulnerability and fear
as we continue our own journey.

In the midst of separation and distance
in our daily living
help us to know that you are near.
Help us to trust your promise
that nothing,
in illness or health,
in living or dying,
can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Jan Berry 2020



For those who are ill

Merciful God, we entrust to your unfailing and tender care, those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

4 Other sources of information that may be useful in thinking about the wider implications of the Covid 19 pandemic

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Naming what's happening: This might sound obvious, but attentive listening to exactly what is going on for

to stop for a few moments and be aware of your body, your feet on the floor, the chair supporting you, and any areas of tension that you notice in your body;
to become aware of your breath and then to take a slightly longer inhale (for the count of 3) and to lengthen the exhale (for a count of 4), and to do this about 5 times;
to stay with the quiet for a few moments, to be present to the moment and your



1. A family member had to self-isolate for suspected COVID-19 before
the email funeral

The funeral had already been prepared, with several discussions

A Prayer

God, we thank you for the gentle, kind faith of our friend [name].

We thank you for the way she lived out her faith with a gracious and generous spirit.

God, we know that you have welcomed [name] with open arms, and that she is safe with you – free from pain, free from suffering.

We pray for her family, thinking especially of [.....]. We would ask that you surround them with your love and fill them with your peace.

God, we entrust [name] to your safekeeping.

Receive one of your own who carries with her our love.

Welcome her into your presence.

While we live she will never be forgotten.

In your eternal love, she will never be lost.

We commend [name] to your safekeeping.

Give her peace and rest in your eternal home.

Amen

A Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding

Keep our hearts and minds

In the knowledge and love of God

And of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

And the blessing of God,

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Remain with us always. Amen.

Hymn: Amazing Grace [ö p ~ y ðó-Bêø â í : ðŒ](#) [version requested by family]

2. The funeral at the crematorium was cancelled – the telephone funeral

3.

Afterwards the family gathered in a zoom meeting, which was less successful, but very worthwhile. Some of us struggled with the technology and one managed to sign in to another meeting all on her own, phoning to ask where we all were! But we were able to laugh, share memories, and support one another almost as well as in a normal 'gathering after the service'.

We even lifted a glass in Mum's memory, with Grandpa proposing the toast. It was good to be



