



Nightingale House Hospice
Hospis Tŷ'r Eos

A MEMORIAL SERVICE

OF THANKSGIVING

for use virtually

A Reflection

We bereaved are not alone. We belong to the largest company in all the world — the company of those who have known suffering. When it seems that our sorrow is too great to be borne, let us think of the great family of the heavy-hearted into which our grief has given us entrance; and inevitably, we will still feel about us their arms, their sympathy, their understanding.

Helen Keller

The Gathering

Welcome

We are who we are today and we are where we are today, because of those whose lives have touched ours and who have let our lives touch theirs.

We are not intended to be neutral when we lose those who have loved us. So, our grief has to be tinged with gratitude

for lives which have shaped us,
for hands which have held us,
for voices that have inspired us,
for eyes which have beheld us,
for ears which have listened to us.

Death has left us confused and sorrowful, filling us with questions that are as deeply mysterious as the oceans and as unanswerable as the language of the stars. These are not easy questions. Like countless others who have stood in the midst of death, we have questions that throw us into the despair and absence we may now feel. So we look for help to realise that we are not alone in our sorrow, our burdens and our brokenness.

O Gracious One, let our loved ones know how much we love and miss their physical presence and long to be with them. Embrace our memories, the tears and smiles, the emptiness and our need. Grant us the courage to journey through our grieving and our pain.

In death, the links of life are broken, but even death can never destroy or take or break the links of love and longing.

Reading

Reflection

Prayers

Lord God, we pray for all who have suffered deep loss. Come close to them in their sense of sorrow and keep them from despair. Bring them a sense of your nearness and your consolation.

We pray for those who were not able to attend this service for whatever reason. We all know the hardness of confronting the pain of losing our loved one.

We are thankful for the love and support from those around us during the difficult times, especially for the help and encouragement given by family and friends.

And so, we offer to you, God of mercy and love, our precious and sometimes painful memories and we ask that you will lead us from today to face the future in confidence and hope. All this we ask in your Holy Name.

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, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Commemoration

Hear us O Merciful One, as we remember those we love.

*During this time, as the names are read,
candles will be lit in memory.*

When we are weary and in need of strength,
when we are lost and sick at heart,
We remember them.

When we have joy we crave to share,
when we have decisions that are difficult to make,
when we have achievements that are based on theirs,
We remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
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,
at the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
We remember them.

For every memory of love and joy,
every memory of life well lived
and every sorrow shared with us,
we give thanks.

**As long as we live, they too will live.
For they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.**

The Blessing

We have given those we love into the arms of the one who created and loves us all, so now we give ourselves to love.

May we see the bright flame before us,
a guiding star to lighten the darkness.

May we see a smooth path in front of us,
and when we find it hard to see, be lead with outstretched arm.

May we be shielded from pain and surrounded by love.

May our sorrow be comforted, our tears wiped away,
and when we are ready, may we lift our faces
and walk into the light of a new day.

Amen

For Reflection

Death is not The End
but the beginning
of a metamorphosis.

For matter is never destroyed
only transformed
and rearranged –
often more perfectly.

Witness how in the moment of a caterpillars death
the beauty of the butterfly is born
and released from the prison of the cocoon,
it flies free.

Peter Tatchell, Peace

During feelings of loss and sadness you may find it helpful to refer to the readings and prayers.

If you would like further support, help or advice then please contact Gary Windon, the Hospice Chaplain. If he is not available then please ask to speak to one of the other members of the Family Support Team.