

Time for
remembering
All Souls' Day 2020



The Good Shepherd Church
Loughborough

Jesus said,
'Believe in God and believe also in me.'

Prayer to begin

Loving God, thank you for all those who have shaped our lives, but whom we no longer see. Help us to remember them well, and trust that they are at peace with you. Give us now, we pray, your strength to face the future and the assurance of eternal life through your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Confession

Remembering God's love and mercy towards us, we acknowledge all that we have done wrong so that we may receive forgiveness through God's infinite goodness and mercy. In a moment of quiet, consider where we have failed God and each other, then pray.

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. We thank you for your forgiveness and ask that you renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Time to Remember

'As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children's children.'
(Psalm 103:13-18)

Spend some time remembering, then pray

Most merciful God, who in your loving kindness gave us so much joy through those we have loved, we thank you for them and for our memories of them. We praise you for your goodness and mercy that followed them all the days of their lives, and for their faithfulness in the tasks to which you called them. We bless you that for them the tribulations of this world are over and death is past, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Take the opportunity now to safely light a candle in remembrance and thanksgiving. This is also a sign and symbol of the light of Christ, which shines His strength and comfort into our hearts every day.



Father God, comfort all who mourn in their sorrow; fill the emptiness in our hearts with the presence of your love; increase our faith and strengthen our hope; open us to the power of your Holy Spirit and bring us the knowledge of your steadfast love, 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.
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.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains –
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip –
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you –
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm –
he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for
evermore.

An Act of Commitment for the future

Although remembering the past is good and helpful, we also need to look to the future, our future, so it is right that we should commit ourselves anew to the service of God and humankind, and ask for God's wisdom and grace to use rightly the time that is left to us here on earth, that we may help, encourage and comfort others both here and far away.



Lord God our Father,
Help us to serve you and all people,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom;
give us courage; give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always.

Amen.

*To join in with our regular worship please go to our website at
www.goodshepherdloughborough.co.uk*

Oh, and a safety note: please do not forget to blow your candle out!