

All Souls

Community Staff Prayer



Artwork by Dorothy Woodward rsj

Do Not Cry!

Preparation:

The Leader sets up a Prayer focus with a Cross, a candle and the Bible open at Luke 7: 11-17 set on a purple cloth. The Leader also provides a prayer leaflet and arranges for a CD or sets up a screen and WiFi for the YouTube version of the song.

WE GATHER

Call to Prayer:

Reader: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord!

All: In the land of the living!

Introduction:

Leader: The words of the Psalmist ring true even today
for our loved ones who have died.
These words come from the liturgy of today's Feast.
Our faith tells us that in death, life is changed not ended.
We know that our loved ones are present with us in a special way today ...

After a short pause to pray in silence, the Leader continues:

Opening Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray ... *(pause)* ...

All: O God of the living and the dead,
You hear the cry of those in grief.
Be a comfort in our weakness, a light in our darkness.
Be our hope. Be our peace.
We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus,
Who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God for ever and ever. Amen.

WE LISTEN

Scripture Focus: Luke 7: 11-17

Breaking Open The Word /Reflection:

The Leader says:

Jesus was moved by this woman's grief. What is the 'grief' that you carry in the secret of your own heart? *(pause)*

Hear these words of Jesus in your heart: "Do not cry" ...

The Leader allows some time in silence for people to hear these words in the depth of their hearts. After a suitable length of time, s/he plays the following song – either on CD or through the link on YouTube. People may like to join in singing the Refrain:

Song: **Heal Us, Lord** (Liam Lawton – Healing Song)

If the CD is not available, and you have access to WiFi, play the song with as illustrated with slides on YouTube through this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOeQUSg6Gi4>

Refrain: Heal us, Lord. Heal us, Lord. Heal us, Lord.
May your word renew us. May your touch restore us. Heal us, Lord.

WE RESPOND

Leader: We come together today to strengthen our conviction
that our loved ones are resting now with God.
Let us affirm our belief and hope in the new life that God offers
by naming one person who has gone before us in the light of faith.
For each person, we affirm:

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

When they are ready, participants say the name of a person whom they would like the group to remember today and, after each name, the group responds:

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

WE GO

Blessing:

Leader: May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
bless and console us and gently wipe each tear from our eyes
in the name of the Father, + and of the Son,
in the name of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Sending Forth:

Leader: Let us go forth rejoicing that Jesus Christ has triumphed over death!

All: Thanks be to God.