

Harvest/Remembrance

worship for all saints



AIM

This material provides some ideas for prayer in worship for All Saints (1st November)

INTRODUCTION

Some churches like to hold a service at All Saints to remember all those associated with the church who have died in the preceding 12 months. Here is an example of such a liturgy with prayers from one United Reformed Church in West Yorkshire.

SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Introduction

Reading Psalm 24:1-2

Hymn For the beauty of the earth (Rejoice and Sing 41)

Prayer

Living God, this wonderful world is yours and everything in it;
you trust us with looking after it to feed and sustain its people.

God forgive us when we have betrayed that trust,
when we have let you down,
when we have mistreated your planet,
when we have invented excuses,
or believed theories because they suit our lifestyle.

God forgive us when we have mistreated others.

God give us another chance.

Forgive us and give us hope again,
for we know and trust that
you are ready, willing and able to forgive us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord...

Act of Remembrance

Words of Introduction

Today is our worship for All Saints, which is for many Christians a time to give thanks to God for those who have gone before us and have now died.

Today, we remember AB, a member of this church, who has died since the last service here of this kind [add more names if required]. But we also know that many more people here

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are bearing the wounds of bereavement. And we invite anyone in that situation to remember too. If you want to light a candle to remember someone, please feel free to come to the front and do so...

Lighting of candles

Silence

Please stand if you are able...

We remember AB.

We remember others who have died, who were dear to us...

Silence

Please be seated.

Prayer

Living God, we give you thanks

for the lives of the people we have loved

and who have now died.

We remember the kind of people they were,

we remember what they were to us

and we give you thanks.

We bring to you our pain and grief.

God heal us and comfort us, we pray.

We thank you coming to us as Jesus Christ,

who came to the world with healing and hope,

and offers us a new life,

a life beyond death.

Let the light of your love shine on,

an eternal light to brighten up the world.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Reading Revelation 21:1-6a

Hymn For all the saints... (Rejoice and Sing 658)

The service may continue as seems appropriate.

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The following prayers of intercession may be used at some point.

Prayers of Intercession

God of love, we pray for all who suffer grief this day.

We remember the words of Jesus,

"Blessed are those who mourn."

We remember those who have lost fathers, mothers,

husbands, wives,

sons and daughters,

as a consequence of war.

God help them and support them.

God forgive us all when we get into such a state that war seems to be the only way out.

God give us peace in our time.

Lord, in your mercy....

Hear our prayer.

We remember those who have the bitter memory

of saying goodbye to someone

who goes out one day to do their job

and never comes back.

God go with them in their anger and grief.

We pray for those who strive for better safety at work,

especially in the building industry, maritime industries, driving,

and other dangerous occupations,

in the UK and far round the world.

God give them strength, and confidence in what they do.

We pray for those who have had the long sorrowful experience

of seeing a loved one die of a work-related disease or injury.

God give them comfort,

and help all who work together

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to take away the causes of disease.

Lord, in your mercy....

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all people

whose best friends and lovers have died,

parents, brothers, sisters, husbands wives....

those who suffer the extra sorrow of losing a child.

God comfort those who mourn, we pray, near and far away.

When somebody we love dies,

there is no-one else on the planet

who really knows that tilt of the head, that smile, that corny joke.

And yet in you, great God, we seek understanding and comfort.

Help each of us God, in our own sadness,

and as we try to approach others in their sorrow,

let the Spirit of Christ, of love and new life, fill us all, now and always...

Amen.

EVALUATION

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

THE NEXT STEP

If you want more seasonal items please revisit the website.

Acknowledgements

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HOW TO FEEDBACK TO VISION4LIFE?

If you wish to offer any feedback – brickbats and bouquets are equally welcome! – you can do so in various ways.

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You can email the Vision4Life steering group about general or website V4L issues via the website or at admin@vision4life.org.uk

If you have comments and particularly contributions to the prayer year, you can email the V4L prayer year coordinator via prayer@vision4life.org.uk

If you want to make contributions or ask questions about other V4L years you can email:

Year 3 – Transformed for Evangelism: evangelism@vision4life.org.uk