

Worship materials for a service immediately following the Death of Her Majesty the Queen

Suggested hymns from CH4

- 14 - The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want
- 63 - All people that on earth do dwell
- 160 - Praise my soul, the King of heave.
- 161 - O God our help in ages past
- 182 - Now thank we all our God
- 272 - Father of peace and God of love
- 424 - Blest be the everlasting God
- 425 - The Saviour died, but rose again
- 694 - Brother, sister, let me serve you
- 740 - For all the saints who from their labours rest

Suggested scripture readings

- Psalm 1: 1–3
- Psalm 27: 1–5
- Matthew 5: 1–14
- John 14: 1-4, 6, 27
- Romans 8: 31–39
- 1 Corinthians 15: 50–58

Call to Worship

The eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms.
Our help is in the name of the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth.

As the family of God, we gather this evening to mourn the loss of a beloved Queen, to give thanks for her long and happy reign, and to seek God's blessing upon our King, our nation, and our own lives.

Call to prayer

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from heaven will break upon us,
to shine on those who live in darkness,
under the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

Lord God, we praise you for your love revealed in Jesus Christ. We thank you that your love is greater than we can ever imagine and stronger than death itself. So we know that we can trust you with our loved ones and with ourselves.

Though we enter this house with sorrow in our hearts, we lift up our hearts in gratitude for all your blessings to us. Though we come as people burdened by fear and guilt, we rejoice in the forgiveness you always offer to us. Though we walk amidst the shadows of death, we celebrate your promise of new life. Though our hearts are filled with grief, we do not grieve as those without hope.

In these days of national mourning, we recall with gratitude our late Queen, your servant Elizabeth, and the gifts which you gave to her, and all the ways in which you sustained her throughout her long life and reign. Hear our thanks for this nation of ours: for its people and its places, the human tapestry of young and old, women and men, the city-dweller and the country folk, our many creeds and customs, our diverse places and histories, yet bound together on this night as one people.

May the God of the open heart, and the Christ of the gentle joy, and the Spirit of the embracing love grant to each one of us in this place of gathering, the grace that enhances each life and community. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Readings from the Queen's radio and TV broadcasts

Since her accession to the throne in 1952, the Queen has continued the practice of her father and grandfather by broadcasting each Christmas Day to the Commonwealth of Nations. These broadcasts began on radio but were televised from 1957 onwards. On five other occasions, she has broadcast to the nation – at the outbreak of the Gulf War (1991), after the death of Princess Diana (1997), after the death of the Queen Mother (2002), at her Diamond Jubilee (2012), and during the COVID-19 crisis (2020).

Her messages are marked by several common themes that mattered greatly to her: a commitment to the Commonwealth as a partnership bound by friendship and shared goals; a determination to serve people irrespective of rank, situation or circumstance; a love of her own family across its different generations; her devotion to the example of Jesus; a sense of the common good of the peoples of the United Kingdom; and a conviction that the most important people were often those who worked faithfully for their local communities.

For the service, there could follow a reading of excerpts of these broadcasts from 1952 to the present day.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Eternal God, you rule over the past, the present and the future. Receive our thanks this day for the heritage of faith, the words of Scripture, and the hymns of the Church. In times of sudden change and alteration, when we miss the familiar and long for stability, reassure us of the constancy of your love.

Hear our thanks for Elizabeth, our Queen, now departed from us, but blessed by grace, resolute in service, and modest in person through all her days. We lift up our hearts in gratitude for the years of her reign, and the sweep of history through which she provided both anchor and steer.

We thank you for her dedication to this nation and to the Commonwealth, and for all the rich gifts of wisdom, kindness and inclusion she brought to her long decades. We bless you for the myriad lives she touched, and for that radiant presence that reached out to others, bringing comfort in hard times, celebrating achievement and high endeavor, honouring courage and sacrificial service. We thank you for her cheerfulness and commitment, for the steadfast faith that sustained her all her days, and for the determination of her life in the cause of duty.

King of kings and Lord of lords, we thank you for the families she united through her person, those near and dear to her in her own home life, those brought together across this kingdom, and those spread throughout the Commonwealth of nations so close to her heart.

For the Queen's family most nearly touched by her loss, we seek your blessing and support in these days of mourning – the Princess Royal, the Duke of York, the Duke of Wessex, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Sussex, and all their families. Bless Charles, our King, and the Duchess of Rothesay. Support our King in these days of preparation. Imbue him with strength of character, openness of heart, keenness of mind, and a generosity of spirit that will sustain him in the time to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And for our nation at this time we pray, seeking comfort in our loss, and hopefulness as we step forward into the days ahead. As our gratitude mingles with sadness, may we support each other and together be communities of tenderness and kindness. Sustain us with the strong memories of the past; strengthen us with hope for generations yet unborn; and renew us for service in our own days of living.

We pray together in the words that Christ has taught us.

The Lord's Prayer (said together)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever. Amen

Benediction

All remain standing to sing:

God Save the King
God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King.
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.