

*On the eve of the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen, the country has been invited to join in a 'National Moment of Reflection' at 8pm on Sunday 18 September.*

*Some members of church communities might like to mark this with prayer as church groups, families, groups of friends or alone. This simple act of remembrance is offered as a resource to help to shape a brief time of prayer. Please use any of it and adapt it as you want to. If you are praying in a group, please choose someone to be 'Leader' (and perhaps someone different to read the Psalm); if you are praying alone, say the words of the 'Leader' as well as those marked 'All.'*

## Gathering

*If you can, light a candle.*

*Leader:* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*All:*     **Amen**

*Leader:* This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.  
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'  
*(Lamentations 3: 21-23)*

*Reader:*

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.  
He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.  
Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*(Psalm 23)*

*Leader:* O God, our sovereign and shepherd,  
who brought again your Son Jesus Christ from the valley of death,  
comfort us with your protecting presence  
and your angels of goodness and love,  
that we also may come home  
and dwell with him in your house for ever.

*All:*     **Amen.**

*Leader:* Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live;  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

*(John 11: 25-26)*

Let us give thanks for our Queen:  
for her life, for her faith, for her service.

*A time of quiet may be kept for at least one minute, or memories and reflections may be shared.*

*Leader:* Let us pray for our Queen:  
that she may rest in peace in the arms of God,  
in whom she trusted and whom she served so faithfully,  
and rise in glory when all things are made new.

*Prayers may be offered informally, silence kept, or one of these prayers may be used.*

Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth,  
for her faith and her dedication to duty.  
Receive her soul in peace and bring her to eternal life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with the saints:  
where sorrow and pain are no more,  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.  
You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all:  
and we are mortal, formed from the dust of the earth,  
and unto earth shall we return.  
For so you ordained when you created me, saying:  
'Dust you are and to dust you shall return.'  
All of us go down to the dust,  
yet weeping at the grave, we make our song:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with the saints:  
where sorrow and pain are no more,  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant Elizabeth.  
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold,  
a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming.  
Receive her into the arms of your mercy,  
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,  
and into the glorious company of the saints in light.  
**Amen.**

*Leader:* Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

*All:*     **Our Father...**

*Leader:* May God give to each of us, and to all who mourn,  
his comfort and his peace,  
his light and his joy,  
in this world and the next.

*All:*     **Amen.**

*Leader:* Let us bless the Lord.

*All:*     **Thanks be to God.**