

Service of Thanksgiving © Pastoral Care Project



Below is our suggestion for an ecumenical service of thanksgiving, for use in church or care setting. Please adapt accordingly.

Please try to arrange the seating in a circle or semi circle where people can see each other. (More information and resources regarding Services in Care Settings can be found on our website www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk)

The above image shows how we set up a table for a Service. In addition it would be helpful to provide small candles (check fire regulations and health and safety), a basket, cards and pens for writing prayer intentions.

Due to copyright restrictions hymn texts are not printed here (if you do not have hymn books please download text from the internet)

Service of Thanksgiving

Welcome and Prayer

(Leaders decide who will welcome and who will lead the prayer chosen, suitable for those present)

Hymn: Dear Lord and Father

Scripture reading: Matthew Ch: 11. 28-30

(to be read from preferred translation)

Please allow time for reflection or sharing what the scripture means to those present.

Reflection: My love for You

My Love for You By Karin Castle

I want you (insert name)
to come to Me, sit with Me but not sit
with downcast eyes but look with trust,
fully into my face to hold the glance of
My eyes because as we look at one another
you will find understanding.

Hold my hand and be intimate with Me
and you will know from the depth of My being
through the look in My eyes what I feel
and what I ask of you.

It is not My will that you are downcast
but it is My will you understand the burden I carry
and that with My love and through My love you
will shoulder it in an able way.

'Do not be afraid, for I am with you.
Even if you forget, I will never forget you.'
(Isaiah 43.5 and 49.15)

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Time of silence - Followed by an invitation to those present to place their loved one in the care of God, through lighting a candle, or placing a name card in the basket provided - please assist those who are frail to write their prayer card. (Once during a Service where a number of people had dementia, three volunteer students were touched by the prayers said by people with dementia.)

Hymn: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

Lord's Prayer: invitation to link hands and connect with each other and the Lord.

Words of Blessing - Sign of Peace

(use according to your tradition) It may be that leaders can invite those present to '*peace be with you*' or to make the sign of the cross on their forehead and say a word of blessing – be led by the Holy Spirit.

Collection may be taken for the work of the Pastoral Care Project.

Closing Hymn: Take my life and let it be

Follow with Refreshments/Hospitality, for example, you may wish to use our Bake & Share initiative.