

Remembrance Sunday Prayers

Opening Prayer

Loving God, today we give you thanks
and remember ...
You are a God of life,
but there is death with so many faces...
You are a God of love,
but we know pain and tears...
You are giving us hope,
but we are sometimes too weak to grasp this...
You have promised to wipe away all tears.
This is what gives us peace and let's us live.
We praise you, when we pray...

Candle Lights

Today, God,
we join hands with the living
who are learning to love.
We dance with the dead
whose visions still live.
We praise with the angels
and remember...

Let us now take a moment
and light candles for those
who died
who we had to let go
who live in our memory
who inspired us
loved us
gave us life
and taught us live...

Pastoral Prayer

Here we are God,
with our grief, our pain
and our unanswered questions.
You are the beginning and the end,
the Alpha & Omega...
you are all in all.

With all these candles lit
we bring before you
all that ended in the past year
all we had to let go
all we suffered from
all that was done to us
and all we did to others.
We want to come to peace
with the things we cannot change
and ask you:
Strengthen and encourage us
to seek new ways
to heal old wounds
and be mindful towards ourselves and others.

God, we bring before you
all who died in the past year...
loved ones near and far:
mothers, fathers, children, friends...
people we knew so well
and people we didn't know...
people whose destiny touched our hearts,
whose pain made us speechless,
and whose stories disturbed us deeply...
victims of wars and injustice,
men, women and children on the run,
people who starved to death,
people who died from curable diseases,
only because medical care was not available...
people who died from catastrophes,
natural disasters, accidents...

We pray for all those
who have to cope with sudden deaths...
Who don't know how to carry on.
Be there with them, God,
and send them helpers, friends, loved ones
to support and comfort them.
Show all who mourn
that there is a time to weep
and a time to laugh...

And enable us all to welcome both into our lives:
the pain and the joy,
the darkness and the light.

Let us be mindful and grateful.
Let us be thankful for lives lived together,
moments enjoyed
and paths walked with each other.

Be there God,
when we find and let go...
when we meet and part...
Help us to shed tears one moment
and embrace happiness the next.
Reconcile us with life and death,
and embrace us with love and hope.
Amen.