**A Service of Remembrance and Reflection**

**Guidelines**

1. The material in this service is provided as a resource for those leading worship for the Day of Remembrance and Recognition on March 18th 2022 or any suitable occasion.

2. The service may be used as a stand-alone act of worship or material from it may be used at other suitable places in other services provided in the Book of Common Prayer.

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**A Service of Remembrance and Reflection
on the second anniversary of the arrival of the pandemic in Ireland**

Preparation

Greeting

We meet in the presence of God
who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.

Or

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sentences of Scripture

God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in trouble. *Psalm 46.1*

I lift up my eyes to the hills –
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 121.1-2*

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. *Lamentations 3.21-23*

The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes.
God is close to those who trust in him. *Nahum 1.7*

Hymn

Bidding

Beloved in Christ
We come together on the anniversary of the arrival of the pandemic
to offer to Almighty God
our worship and praise and thanksigiving
to confess our sins and to receive God’s forgiveness
to hear his holy word proclaimed
to remember and reflect on the impact of the pandemic
and to prayer that in the power of his spirit
we may serve him and know the greatness of his love

Penitence

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. As we remember those who have died because of the current pandemic, let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate to all your children:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You are loving to all and your mercy is over all your creation:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your faithful servants bless your name and speak of the glory of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The priest pronounces this absolution.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
Have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

The Beatitudes (BCP pages 223-224) may also be used

Ministry of the Word

The lectionary provision of the day or the readings below may be used.

The First Reading - Isaiah 40: 1, 25-31

The reader says

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter forty,
beginning at verse one.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal?
says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength, mighty in power,
not one is missing.
Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
‘My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God’?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

At the end the reader says

Speak to us, Lord

Speak in the Darkness

Psalm 121

1. I lift up my eyes to the hills;
 from where is my help to come?

2.   My help comes from the Lord,
 the maker of heaven and earth.

3.   He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
 he who watches over you will not sleep.

4.   Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
 shall neither slumber nor sleep.

5.   The Lord himself watches over you;
 the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

6.   So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
 neither the moon by night.

7.   The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
 it is he who shall keep your soul.

8.   The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
 and your coming in,
 from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Reading - Romans 8.18–30

The reader says

A reading from the letter to the Romans chapter Eight beginning at verse 18

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

At the end the reader says

Speak to us, Lord

Speak words of quiet and strength

The Sermon

Responding

An Act of Remembrance

Let us remember before God,
and commend to his sure keeping
those who have died during the pandemic
those who died suddenly;
and who died unexpectedly;
those whom we knew,
 and whose memory we treasure;
those who have died alone;
and those who have no one to remember them.

Here follows **The** **Silence.**

Then the minister says

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life;
Hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

The apostles creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Or

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Nicene Creed may also be used.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us remember and pray for all who have been impacted by the pandemic.

We remember those confined to their homes and separated from family and support;
those who have lost their source of income; their home or their sense of hope

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

We remember all those who continue to be anxious about the future; those worried about loved ones and friends; and those concerned about their own health;

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

We remember all who contracted the corona virus ; those with other illnesses and conditions which leave them vulnerable; those with poor mental health;
and for all who continue to suffer;

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

We remember those who have lost loved ones
children who have been orphaned.
For all who mourn and those who comfort them.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

Gracious and Loving God,
you are our comforter and our hope.
Hear our prayers as we come before you.
Strengthen us in times of need.
Inspire us to acts of solidarity and generosity and give us hope of a brighter future.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,**

 **hallowed be your name,**

 **your kingdom come,**

 **your will be done,**

 **on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

 **Forgive us our sins**

 **as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

 **but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

 **now and for ever. Amen.**

or

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven:**

 **hallowed be 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 trespasses**

 **as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

 **but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory**

 **for ever and ever. Amen.**

Going Out As God's People

We offer to almighty God our thanksgiving for the many blessings with which he has enriched our lives.

For all medical staff and hospital workers,
who went to work knowing the risks they face;

Thanks be to God.

For medical researchers,
seeking ways to prevent and to cure;

Thanks be to God.

For all frontline and emergency service personnel who kept us safe and secure.

Thanks be to God

For farmers, delivery and shop workers, who kept us feed and clothed;

Thanks be to God.

For public officials and educators.
For innovators and inventors who provided new solutions.

Thanks be to God.

For renewed friendships among neighbors.
For solidarity and unity among all peoples.

Thanks be to God.

For patience and perseverance.
For the grace to overcome adversity.

Thanks be to God.

For hope in times of despair.
For light in the darkness.

Thanks be to God.

The Dismissal

The Lord God almighty is our Father:

he loves us and tenderly cares for us.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour:

he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.

The Lord, the Holy Spirit, is among us:

he will lead us in God’s holy way.

To God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be praise and glory today and for ever.
Amen.

The Ending

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.