A picture containing sitting, covered, table, cake

Description automatically generated

Come among us, Jesus

You, whom angels worship

and children welcome

Come among us, Jesus

You who hurled the stars into space

and shaped the spider’s weaving

Come among us, Jesus

You who died on the cross

and lit a flame that dances forever

Come Jesus, and meet us as separately we gather, together in your presence

Amen.

## Remembrance and Thanksgiving

***1st November***

***6pm***

**Prayer**

In you gracious God,

the wounded find a healer,

the penitent find a pardoner,

the burdened find a counsellor.

In you the oppressed find freedom,

The despondent find joy, The fearful find a friend.

And if some need to say ‘Help me’

And if some need to say ‘Save me’

And if some need to say ‘Forgive me’

Let those be said now.

**Listen to music of your choice**

**Words of gathering**

All our laughter, all our sadness,

**Safe now in God’s hands.**

All our pain, all our gladness,

**Safe now in God’s hands.**

All our stories, all our memories,

**Safe now in God’s hands.**

Those we remember, those we love,

**Safe now in God’s hands.**

***A period of silence***

**May we know ourselves safe, redeemed, forgiven. In the name of Christ, Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer:** Our Father, who art in heaven, Holy is your name,Your Kingdom come, your will be done**,** on earth as it is in heaven.Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory. For ever and ever**,** Amen

**Read Psalm 23** (reflection in italics adapted from Engage Worship)

**The LORD is my shepherd,** *My guide, my satnav, my personal trainer, my prime minister, my mentor, my friend. The one I look to...* **I have everything I need.** *I want plenty of things, long for so much, desire many. But what Lord, do I need?* **He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.** *Lord, in my sadness let me rest in your arms.*

**He renews my strength.** *I am so tired at times, so wrung out from life’s struggles. Renew my strength Lord, please, give me patience and endurance...*

**He guides me along right paths, bringing honour to his name.** *It’s easy to lose my way. The path is sometimes hard to see. Please guide me each and every day.*

**Even when I walk through the dark valley of evil, I will not be afraid,** *I can feel so alone, frightened and overwhelmed. Help me to see my loss through your eyes; give comfort, compassion and courage.*

**For you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.** *Popular opinion says that there is nothing out there. Help me to remember your promise to always be with us, to never leave us.*

**You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.** *I sometimes feel misunderstood and things trip me up at most unexpected moments. Your word offers a feast of encouragement. Thank you Lord.*

**You welcome me as a guest, anointing my head with oil.** *Help me to keep in mind that we are all your children, welcomed home, forgiven, invited in...*

**My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and love will pursue me forever. I will live in the presence of the LORD all my days.** *Thank you for those I have loved and love, for all the good things in my life, and the promise of fullness of life with you. Amen.*

**Listen to music**

***Lighting of candles – light one for your loved one and know that you join with others in remembering and lighting candles during this period of time.***

**Reading: Romans 8:38-39**

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Poem ‘Memories’** (author unknown)

Life can never stay the same, no matter how we try

Our hands can never stop the clock of life from ticking by

But love remains, unchanging, In the care of sorrowing hearts

For as the love of life is stilled

The love of memory starts. (Author unknown)

**Listen to music**

**Reading: 1 Corinthians 13: 8-13**

Love never ends. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I grew up, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**Poem ‘Let me go’ by Christine Rosetti**

When I come to the end of the road, and the sun has set for me

I want not rites in a gloom filled room, why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little, but not for long, and not with your head bowed low.

Remember the love that once we shared. Miss me, but let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take. And each must go alone.

It’s all part of the master plan, a step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick at heart, go to the friends we know.

Laugh at all the things we used to do. Miss me, but let me go.

**Listen to music**

**Blessing to end**

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

**Acknowledgements**

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Material under Psalm 23 adapted from Engage Worship