

## Prayers for when you can't go to a funeral

To lead into a time of prayer, a meditation by Marjorie Dobson.

*This is the place*

This is the place  
where death meets life,  
where sorrow is present,  
where hard questions are asked  
and not always answered.

This is the place  
where pain is felt,  
where partings are made real,  
where holy words  
can ring empty and hollow.

This is the place  
where we ask 'Why?',  
where we cry 'What now?'  
Where God is near  
or feels far away.

This is the place  
where emotions are mixed,  
where tears are shed,  
where memories return  
of brighter yesterdays.

This is the place  
where God says, 'I know.'  
Where God says, 'I am here.'  
Where God sheds a tear  
with us.

This is the place  
where God understands,  
where God stands and waits,  
where Jesus says  
'I went through this.'  
This is the place

Where Easter is hope,  
where eternity is God,  
where each ending  
becomes a beginning.

This is the place  
where God is all around  
and very much alive  
because we need him  
here in this place.

**And now our prayers:  
first a prayer for one we love but see no more**

God of mercy, Lord of life, we give you thanks for the one we love  
For all that was good in their life  
For the memories we treasure today  
For all that person has meant to so many people.  
We ask you to continue to hold them in your loving care.  
Amen

**And now a prayer for all who have been touched by death**

God of mercy, God of life,  
look with compassion on all who mourn.  
We ask that you will bring comfort and strength in grief and loss ...  
that you will become a place of refuge,  
a rock in the storm, a light in the darkness.  
These things we ask through Jesus Christ,  
our refuge, our rock, our light.  
Amen

**And now a moment of stillness to take time to remember...  
to reflect perhaps on things unsaid...  
to call to mind good and bad times...**

Eternal God,  
 We pray for ourselves as we pray for those we mourn  
 We stand where earth and heaven meet,  
 Where life is brought to death,  
 And death is made the gate of glory.  
 Deliver us from fear and doubt and bring us to the light of your presence.  
 Give us all patient faith in times of darkness,  
 And strengthen us with the knowledge of your love.  
 Grant us the peace which the world cannot give,  
 so that we may trust in you and find our life in you.  
 We make our prayer through Jesus Christ,  
 Our Saviour in life and death,  
 God for ever and ever  
 Amen

**Christians believe that those who die, continue to be held in God's love.**

**Affirming that faith we pray in the words of the Lord's Prayer:**

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 them that 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

God of love, as we conclude this time of prayer,  
 may your strength and compassion be near and real to us.  
 Help us to live our lives within your love...  
 showing sensitivity and commitment to the needs of others...  
 give us grace to face life's tasks and challenges with steady nerves,  
 a calm heart and a courageous spirit  
 so that we may be truly worthy of all those who have gone before us and  
 enriched our lives.  
 Amen