

A form of Ante-Communion: This service is designed to be used by individuals or small groups on occasions when they are for any reason unable to attend a service of Holy Communion.

Find a space where you can be comfortable and undisturbed for a while.

Perhaps have a small cross and or a candle placed on a small table by you.

Have a Bible or a copy of the lectionary Bible readings to hand.

Perhaps prepare yourself to pray by listening to a piece of music e.g. 'Be still and know that I am God'

Taking a moment to be still and thinking of all those for whom and with whom we might regularly pray, holding before God all those on whom we depend for different aspects of our daily life...

Opening Prayer:

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

Taking a moment to reflect on any parts of our lives that fall short of proclaiming the glory of God and the purposes of His kingdom:

Confession:

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Be still for a moment and know that God love and mercy is there for us all – perhaps light a candle or make the sign of the cross as a symbol of God's gracious presence

Reading:

The Gospel reading for the week and or other passage(s) of scripture may be read and reflected on.

Prayer:

Time is taken to pray in thanksgiving and intercession. The prayers might include these concerns:

¶ *The Church - the local church, all who share in ministry, the wider church*

¶ *Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority*

¶ *The local community – neighbours, friends, all who are part of the networks of our lives*

¶ *Those who suffer – the ill, the anxious, the fearful and all who provide care and support for them*

¶ *The communion of saints – the departed, those who have encouraged our journey of faith, the saints who inspire us*

...ending with the words:

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Thanksgiving:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

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.

Prayer:

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who are baptised into Christ's body live his risen life; we who will drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always.
Amen.