**Draft Order for a Memorial Service**

***This is a simplified form of the Common Worship memorial service, commended for use in parishes in the Diocese of Chichester.***

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**The Gathering**

*Sentences of Scripture may be sung or said, and hymns or other pieces of music inserted where required.*

*The minister says*

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,

who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.

Grace and mercy be with you.

**[*All***   **And also with you.]**

*The minister welcomes the people and introduces the service.*

**Opening Prayer**

*The minister*

Father in heaven, we praise your name

for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,

for the example of their lives,

the life and grace you gave them

and the peace in which they rest.

We praise you today for your servant *N*

and for all that you did through *him/her*.

Meet us in our sadness

and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,

for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

***All***   **Amen.**

**Readings Sermon and Tribute**

*A reading from the Old or New Testaments is used and a short sermon preached. Memories may be shared, and a tribute made.*

**Intercessory Prayers**

*The minister or other person*

We give you thanks and praise, almighty Father,

that you sent your Son to die,

and raised him from the dead for the salvation of all.

(Lord, hear us.

***All***   **Lord, graciously hear us.**)

We thank you for *N* who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life,

and now through faith rejoices with the saints in glory.

(Lord, hear us.

***All***   **Lord, graciously hear us.**)

We thank you for our deceased relatives and friends,

who have helped us in the faith

and now find rest from their labours.

(Lord, hear us.

***All***   **Lord, graciously hear us.**)

We thank you that the family and friends of our *brother/sister N*

may be consoled in their grief by the Lord,

who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

(Lord, hear us.

***All***   **Lord, graciously hear us.**)

We pray for all of us assembled here to worship in faith,

that we may be gathered together again in God’s kingdom.

(Lord, hear us.

***All***   **Lord, graciously hear us.**)

*The minister*

 Gracious Father,

in darkness and light,

in trouble and in joy,

help us to trust your love,

to serve your purpose

and to praise your name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***All***   **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*The minister* Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

***All***   **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.**

**The Commendation**

God our creator and redeemer,

by your power Christ conquered death

and entered into glory.

Confident of his victory

and claiming his promises,

we entrust N to your mercy

in the name of Jesus our Lord,

who died and is alive

and reigns with you,

now and for ever.

***All***   **Amen.**

**The Blessing**

*The minister*

The Lord God almighty,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

the holy and undivided Trinity,

guard us, save us,

and bring us to that heavenly city,

where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*or*

The God of peace,

who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,

that great shepherd of the sheep,

make *you* perfect in every good work to do his will;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among *you* and remain with *you* always.

***All***   **Amen.**

***(Prayers of Lamentation)***

***If judged necessary it is suggested that these could be used before the Intercessions or at some other point in the service***

*The minister:*

(Suggested introduction, as a guide for a more spontaneous one).

The Old Testament offers us many powerful laments to express the sorrows of our hearts. In these times of bereavement and national mourning, let us call on the Lord in sincerity of heart, lamenting before him and trusting in his love:

**Canticle from the Book of Lamentations:**

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow!

For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.

Remember my affliction and my bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!

But 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; great is your faithfulness.

‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that we should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

For the Lord will not reject for ever; though he causes grief, he will have compassion,

According to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

All: **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

***The minister***

**In darkness and in light,**

**in trouble and in joy,**

**help us, heavenly Father,**

**to trust your love,**

**to serve your purpose,**

**and to praise your name;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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