

Blessing

May Christ the good shepherd
enfold you with love,
fill you with peace,
and lead you in hope, to the end of your days;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.



Chaplaincy and
Spiritual Care Services

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals 

NHS Trust

Resources for use when a child dies

The Church of England

Introductory Sentences

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels,
nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor
powers, nor heights, nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8. 38,39

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd,
and will lead them to springs of living water, and God will
wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 7. 17

I will comfort you, says the Lord, as a mother comforts
her child, and you shall be comforted.

Isaiah 66.13

Opening Prayers

God of all mercies,
you make nothing in vain and love all that you have made.
Comfort us in our grief,
and console us by the knowledge of your unfailing love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who brought us to birth,
and in whose arms we die,
in our grief and shock, contain and comfort us;
embrace us with your love,
give us hope in our confusion
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Readings

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Gracious God,
we thank you for the love in which *N* was conceived
and for the love of the home into which *he/she* was to be born.
We pray that the love which *his/her* parents have for each other may grow and deepen as a result of this experience.
Give us grace, in patience and understanding,
to listen to each other,
and to help one another in the days to come.
Amen.

Farewell

Heavenly Father,
N and *N* have named their baby *N*
- a name to be treasured for ever in their hearts.
But it was you who formed *him/her* in the womb;
you knew *him/her* by name before time began.
Now we commit *N* into your ever-caring and gentle love;
he/she brought the promise of joy to many lives
for so short a time;
enfold *him/her* now in eternal life,
in the name of our risen Saviour
who was born and died and lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit for ever.
Amen.

Prayers which may be said by the parents

God of hope,
we come to you in shock and grief and confusion of heart.
Help us to find peace
in the knowledge of your loving mercy to all your children,
and give us light to guide us out of our darkness
into the assurance of your love. Amen.

Father, the death of *N* brings an emptiness into our lives.
We are separated from *him/her*
and feel broken and bewildered.
Give us confidence that *he/she* is safe
and *his/her* life complete with you,
and bring us together at the last
to the wholeness and fullness of your presence in heaven,
where your saints and angels enjoy you for ever and ever.
Amen.

A stillborn child

God our creator,
from whom all life comes,
comfort this family,
grieving for the loss of their hoped-for child.
Help them find assurance that with you
nothing is wasted or incomplete,
and uphold them with your love,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Matthew 18.1-5,10

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven."

Mark 10.13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

Prayers

Commendation

Heavenly Father,
whose Son our Saviour took little children into his arms and
blessed them:
receive, we pray, your child *N* in your never-failing care
and love,
comfort all who have loved *him/her* on earth,
and bring us all to your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For those who mourn

Lord, we pray for those who mourn,
for parents and children, friends and neighbours.
Be gentle with them in their grief.
Show them the depths of your love,
a glimpse of the kingdom of heaven.
Spare them the torment of guilt and despair.
Be with them as they weep beside the empty tomb
of our risen Saviour. Amen.

Most merciful God,
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,
surround the family of *N* with your love,
that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,
but have confidence in your love,
and strength to meet the days to come.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the parents

Heavenly Father,
you alone can heal our broken hearts;
you alone can wipe away the tears that well up inside us;
you alone can give us the peace we need;
you alone can strengthen us to carry on.
We ask you to be near those whose time of joy
has been turned into sadness.
Assure them that with you nothing is wasted or incomplete,
and uphold them with your tender love.
Supported by your strength,
may our love for one another be deepened
by the knowledge of your love for us all.
Amen.

For the children in the family

Lord Jesus,
we ask you to be close to the children of this family,
whose lives have been changed by sorrow.
Give them courage to face their loss,
and comfort with your unchanging love.
Amen.