



**Opening hymn: Here I am Lord**

**Opening Prayer**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Heavenly Father, you are the God of Love. It is through the power of your love and grace that we are renewed and transformed. May we be inspired by the example of your Son, Jesus, whose central message was 'to love one another as I have loved you.' (John 13:34-35). May the transforming power of your love be visible in our relationships with others, in the experiences that we share, in our intentions for the future, and ultimately in our relationship with you. We make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord. **Amen.**

*This week, we invite you to pick a flower bulb in the basket provided and plant it in a special place.*

*Let it be a symbol of love, hope and new life.*

**A reading from the First letter of St John.**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Prayers and Intercessions

### Let us pray:

As we stand together the response to our prayer is:

**Love me, O Lord.**

Come to us, O God, when the night surrounds us. **(R)**

Come to us in the night of disappointment. **(R)**

Come to us in the night of guilt.**(R)**

Come to us in the night of fear.**(R)**

Come to us in the night of hatred.**(R)**

Come to us in the night of loneliness.**(R)**

Come to us in the night lost love.**(R)**

Come to us in the night of anxiety.**(R)**

Come to us in the night of pain.**(R)**

Come to us in the night of questioning.**(R)**

Come to us in the night of rejection.**(R)**

Come to us in the night of broken relationships.**(R)**

Come to us in the night of despair.**(R)**

Come to us in the night of hopelessness.**(R)**

Come to us in the night of death and stay with me, my God in every night. **(R)**

Death is nothing at all,  
It does not count,  
I have only slipped away into the next room.  
Nothing has happened.  
Everything remains exactly as it was.  
I am I, and you are you,  
and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged.  
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.  
Call me by the old familiar name,  
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.  
Put no difference into your tone,  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.  
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together,  
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was,  
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it.  
Life means all that it ever meant,  
It is the same as it ever was.  
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.  
What is this death but a negligible accident?

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?  
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,  
somewhere very near,  
just round the corner.  
All is well.

By Henry Scott-Holland (1847-1918)

### **Closing Prayers**

Lord, you are gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in mercy.  
You are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all that you have made.  
You uphold all who fall and raise up all who are bowed down.  
**Lord, you are gracious and merciful.**

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.  
You open your hand, you satisfy the desire of every living thing.  
**Lord, you are gracious and merciful.**

You come to us in our time of need. You lift us up with your word.  
May your love endure forever and your compassion know no bounds.  
**Lord, you are gracious and merciful**

Eternal rest grant on to them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**Closing hymn: (*Marian antiphon can be said or sung*)  
*or Salve Regina***