

Light for Lives Coffee Morning

Opening Responses:

Come among us O God.
You cast the planets into space
and cradle the sparrow in her nest.

Come among us O God.

Come among us God.
You bless the poor and the broken
and stand by the sad and the strong.

Come God and meet us here.

Come among us God.
You dance in the silence
and shine in the darkness.

Come God and meet us here.

Song: Be still, my soul

Readings: Psalm 139: 7-10

A Space to Remember

An opportunity to remember those who have died – ritual action – lighting candles

As we light this candle in honour of the people who died in the last year, we also light it for our GRIEF, for COURAGE, WISDOM, for our MEMORIES and for LOVE.

GRIEF- reminds us of the depth of our love for every person who died

COURAGE & WISDOM – to confront our sorrow, to comfort each other, to change our lives.

MEMORY – the times we laughed, the times we cried, the times we were angry with each other, the caring and joy you gave us.

LOVE – eternal love that knows no boundaries, through Jesus Christ our light.

Song: Abide with me

Reflection:

With daring we enter the future that beckons,
our feelings in tension – excitement and fear.
Wherever we're walking we know God walks with us,
before and behind, God's protection is near.

Alone in the desert God's people feel empty,
the land that was promised of honey and milk
seemed distant, reality made hope distorted,
clothed them with despairing, more sackcloth than silk.

And sometimes the way that we find in the present
has troubles and heartaches enough of its own;
but still God walks with us through valleys of darkness,
encompassed with loving, we're never alone.

So welcome the future and enter it boldly,
look back, God was with you wherever you trod.
This God is your lover through life and forever,
take hold of the certainty: this is your God.

Song: Be thou my vision

Closing Responses:

We ask for the love of God
and the messages of angels.

The laughter of Jesus
and the stories of the saints.

The power of the Spirit
and the strong hands of friends.

To bless us on life's journey
and bring us safely home.

Amen.

Ruth Burgess