

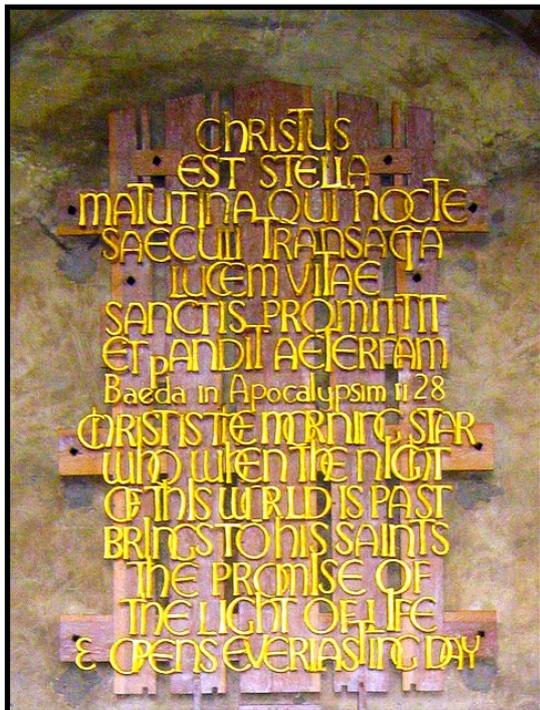
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Christ is the morning star  
who, when the night  
of this world is past,  
brings to his saints  
the promise of  
the light of life  
and opens  
everlasting day.



(Venerable Bede 673-735)



# LEAD KINDLY LIGHT

## A time for remembering those who have died

*We begin in silence. Each participant has an unlit candle. The candle represents all those whom we wish to remember. If you are at home you may wish to have an unlit candle close by.*

### Reading:

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead,  
the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. *1 Corinthians 15:20*

### Opening Hymn:

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me. *H F Lyte (1793-1847)*

*All sit. The Paschal Candle, that great symbol of the Risen Christ, is lit.*

### Prayers:

for those who have died;  
for those who suffer the pain of loss and grief;  
for all of us who will die too, some day.

**Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In every change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend,  
Through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
To guide the future as he has the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,  
All now mysterious shall be clear at last.  
Be still, my soul: the tempests still obey  
His voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be for ever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

*Katharina von Schlegel tr. Jane L Borthwick (1813-1897)*

*As the names of those in our parish who have died in the last twelve months are read out, please keep in the front of your own mind the names of those you particularly want to remember.*

**Saints of God in glory, be with us, rejoice with us,  
sing praise with us and pray with us now.**

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## Reading:

When Love beckons to you, follow him,  
though his ways are hard and steep,  
and when his wings enfold you, yield to him,  
though his voice may shatter your dreams  
as the north wind lays waste the garden.  
For even as love crowns you, so shall he crucify you.  
Even as he is for your growth, so is he for your pruning.  
Even as he ascends to your height and caresses  
your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun,  
so shall he descend to your roots and shake them in  
their clinging to the earth.  
All these things shall love do unto you that you may know  
the secrets of your heart, and in that knowledge become  
a fragment of life's heart.

*Khalil Gibran (1883-1931)*

*As the Taizé chant is sung, unlit candles will be brought to the altar. They represent all those who have died and are in our thoughts this night.*

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

## Intercessions

*The intercessions will be made while the Taizé chant continues. When the intercessions have finished, there will be a few moments of silence.*

## Reading:

Farewell my friends.  
It was beautiful as long as it lasted, the journey of my life.  
I have no regrets whatsoever save the pain I'll leave behind.  
Those dear hearts who love and care  
and the heavy with sleep, ever-moist eyes,  
the smile in spite of a lump in the throat  
and the strings pulling at the heart and soul.  
The strong arms that held me up when my own strength let  
me down.  
Each morsel that I was fed was full of love.  
At every turning of my life I came across good friends,

friends who stood by me even when the time raced me by.  
Farewell, farewell my friends.  
I smile and bid you goodbye.  
No, shed no tears, for I need them not.  
All I need is your smile.  
If you feel sad, do think of me for that is what I'll like.  
When you live in the hearts of those you love,  
remember then you never die. *Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)*

*The cantor will sing a hymn to aid our reflection:*

**Hear the prayer of your servant; let me go now in peace  
to the home you have promised where our joys never cease.**

*I have seen with my eyes what the prophets have foretold.  
I have held in my arms God my Saviour.*

**I have walked in your temple in the soft morning light  
and have knelt in your presence in the still of the night.**

**I have worn smooth your pathways that I've loved  
from the start,  
as you've carved loving furrows in the stone of my heart.**

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## **Reading:**

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the Archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up into the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. We shall stay with the Lord for ever.

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

*During the next hymn, those who brought candles to the altar return to light them from the Paschal Candle. They return to their places, taking with them one lit candle. You may wish to light a candle for the next part of the service.*

*The cantor leads us in prayer again:*

**I know that my redeemer lives,  
and on the last day I will rise again.  
I know that my redeemer lives,  
and on the last day I will rise again.**

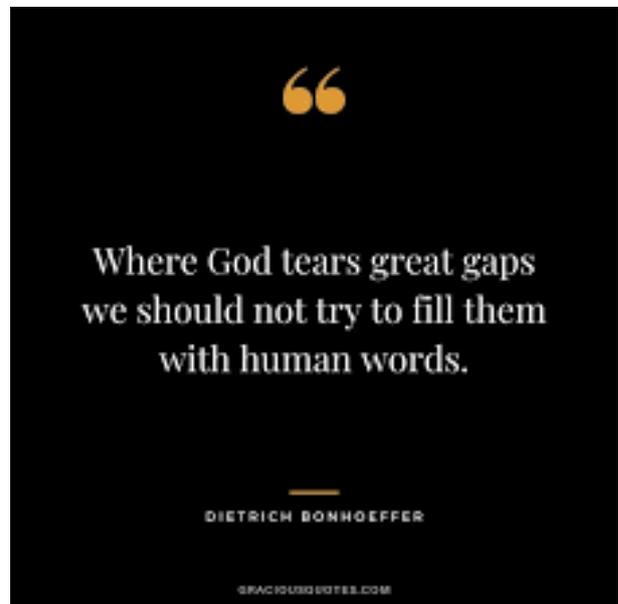
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### **Reading:**

Nothing can fill that gap  
when we are away from those  
we love,  
and it would be wrong to try  
to find anything.  
We must simply hold out and  
win through.  
That sounds very hard at first,  
but at the same time  
it is a great consolation  
since leaving the gap unfilled  
preserves the bonds of love  
between us.

It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap.  
He does not fill it, but leaves it empty  
so that our communion with one another may be kept alive  
even at the cost of pain.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)*



*All stand*

## **Reading:**

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went out and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

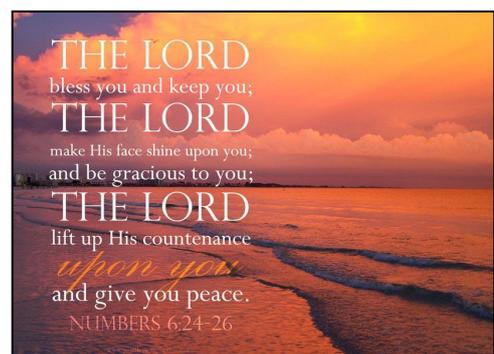
*John 11:17, 20-26*

## **Prayer:**

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awaking,  
into the house and gate of heaven,  
to enter that gate and dwell in that house,  
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,  
but one equal light;  
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;  
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;  
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;  
in the habitations of thy glory and dominion,  
world without end.

*John Donne 1571-1631*

## **The Blessing**



## Closing hymn:

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your Church gathered today.*

Many the gifts, many the sorrows,  
Many the people who suffer alone.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Making your kingdom come.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

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## Reading:

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead,  
the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.      *1 Corinthians 15:20*

*The service is ended. The candles are extinguished. The light of Christ which has led us through our sadness remains with those who have died. May we carry it in our hearts alongside our memories of those we have loved, and still love.*

