

# Prayers for those mourning the loss of a loved one

## Hold me to your heart...

God of compassion,  
when I feel helpless in my grief,  
hold me to your heart.

God of gentleness,  
in those moments when life is dark,  
keep me close to you.

God of comfort,  
when I am overcome with sadness,  
shelter me under your wings.

Ever-faithful God,  
help me to find reassurance  
and hope in these words of hope  
to all your people.

"Because you are precious to me,  
because I love you,  
there is no need to be afraid,  
for I am with you." (*Isaiah 43*)



Bless those who mourn  
the death of relative or friend  
and feel that with this loss  
their lives are incomplete.

Bless those who mourn,  
and fill these empty hearts  
with pleasant memories,  
the sound of laughter,  
sunshine and happier days.

Bless those who mourn,  
and heal their brokenness  
with the soothing balm  
of your gentle touch,  
that they might know  
shalom, wholeness, peace.  
Amen.

I pray for all whose lives  
have been touched by tragedy,  
whether by accident  
or a deliberate act.

For those who mourn,  
immerse them in your love  
and lead them through this darkness  
into your arms, and light.

For those who comfort,  
be in both the words they use  
and all that's left unspoken;  
fill each heart with love.

I ask this through Jesus Christ,  
whose own suffering brought us life,  
here and for eternity.  
Amen.



For all those who woke this morning  
to the loneliness of bereavement -  
the empty bed or chair,  
an unaccustomed quietness,  
a life now incomplete -  
may they know your presence  
in the stillness of the day,  
and through the love of friends  
who offer their condolence.

And in the darker moments  
may they reach out to hold your hand  
and feel the warmth of the One  
who has already passed  
from death to life  
to welcome others into God's Kingdom.  
Amen.

Thank you for the remembrance  
of loved ones no longer with us;  
for their inspiring words,  
encouragement,  
love and support,  
an example for us to follow.  
May their legacy be seen  
in the people we have become,  
and may we always be thankful.  
Amen.



Thank you for the lives  
of all those loved ones  
who, whilst no longer  
walking beside us  
or holding our hand  
along life's journey  
as once they did, live on  
in the collective memory  
of those they have left behind.  
Enjoy their company, Loving God  
until we shall meet again.  
Amen.



Embrace in your loving arms  
all who are grieving the loss  
of family and loved ones  
through tragic circumstance;  
where lives are in turmoil,  
hope turns to despair  
and pain is all that's felt.

Be with them in their sorrow,  
uphold them with your strength,  
and through the generosity  
of love shown by others  
and your presence within their hearts  
may they know they are not alone,  
in their struggle through today.  
Amen.

God of love and mercy,  
embrace all those  
whose hearts today overflow with grief,  
unanswered questions  
and such a sense of loss.  
Grant them space  
to express their tears.  
Hold them close  
through the coming days.  
Amen.



Bring comfort to those  
coming to terms  
with the unexpected  
loss of a loved one.

Bring healing to those  
alive but broken  
by serious injuries  
and related trauma.

Bring unity to those  
working for peace  
and understanding  
between communities.

Bring your warmth  
to those whose hearts  
are cold and empty,  
and bring your blessing  
on all who in such times  
are there to share your love.  
Amen.



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