

Remembrance Day Prayer Service

‘May we all meet in heaven. Oh, what a joy, even to think of it!’

Catherine McAuley

Opening Hymn (*suggested*): [The Clouds' Veil \(Liam Lawton\)](#)

Gathering Moment

As a community of Mercy worldwide we commemorate this day 182 years ago when Catherine McAuley died. We think of the early Sisters of Mercy gathered around her bed as she lay dying and of their grief when she was with them no longer. As we remember the loss Catherine was to the fledgling Mercy community, we also remember those we love who have died. We gather today in remembrance to pray with, and for, each other, to support and encourage each other. We gather in faith and hope to remember and honour those we love who have died.

“Our dear deceased Sisters have a special claim on our prayers” (Mercy Readings pg 892)
And so in faith and hope and love, we gather to remember their names; honour their memory; celebrate their lives and pray that they are now at peace and at rest with God forever.

“Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only putting out the lamp because the dawn has come”

Rabindranath Tagore

Pause for Reflection

Leader: We pause to recall family, friends and community members who have died recently. (Quiet time)

As their name is called out, we light a candle in their memory. (Music: [There is a place](#): Liam Lawton)

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:38-39

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power, nor the heights nor the depths, nor any created thing whatever, will be able to come between us and the love of God, known to us in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Universal Prayer

On the anniversary of Catherine McAuley’s death, we remember her and all those who have given their lives in service to others, and so we pray:

- We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.

We pray for each of us, that we may be an influence for good on this earth:

- *We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.*

We pray for hearts free from anxiety and fear and full of self-surrender:

- *We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.*

We pray for trust in God's providence during times of doubt and difficulty:

- *We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.*

We pray for all people who are nearing the time of their own death, that the hope of eternal life will comfort them:

- *We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.*

We pray for Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Associates and all those throughout the world who work in Mercy, that Catherine's life and death may continue to call them to embrace the spirit of hospitality and service:

- *We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.*

Closing Blessing

God of the living and the dead, through the power of Christ's resurrection you have conquered sin and death forever. Catherine McAuley reminded us that each day is a step we take towards eternity. May we continue from day to day taking each step thoughtfully and in gratitude, mindful of its impact on our eternal journey to You.

May we be blessed and animated by God's own divine Spirit, proving that it is Jesus Christ we love and serve with our whole hearts.

May the love of God be above us to overshadow us, beneath us to uphold us, before us to guide us, behind us to protect us, close beside us and within us to make us

Amen.

