





## Sunday Worship Resources

A practical Sunday Service handbook for churches on suicide prevention, supportingpeople bereaved by suicide and promoting emotional wellbeing

Flourish

A Churches' initiative on Suicide

### Contents

1.	Sunday Worship Resources	Page 3
2.	Before You Begin	Page 3
3.	We Gather To Worship God Preparing The Space	Page 4
4.	We Listen For The Word Of God	Page 8
5.	New Testament Reading: Colossians 3: 12-17	Page 11
6.	We Respond To The Word Of God	Page 16
7.	We Go With The Blessing Of God	Page 19









### **Flourish**

#### Sunday Worship Resources

These resources are a "pick and mix" toolkit for churches who wish to have a "Flourish! Sunday Service" reflecting on the issues of mental health and suicide, and what Christ, through the church, has to offer to those who are struggling in this sphere.

#### **BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

Preparations for such a service need to take place long before the usual Sunday service preparations. Think carefully about why are you having such a service and who is it primarily aimed at:

- Is it mainly for established members, opening their eyes to a subject that isn't often talked about in church circles and even less within the context of worship?
- Is it for those who are currently struggling with stress, depression and other mental health issues, and perhaps wrestling with suicidal thoughts?
- Is it for those whose lives have been turned upside down by the mental health issues of others around them, or the suicide of a loved one?
- Perhaps it is not aimed at any one group in particular, but there may be those from all of the above in the congregation.

Clarity on this issue will help you to make decisions as to how to publicise the service and/ or invite people to it, as well as picking and adapting the appropriate resources from this toolkit. It is useful to communicate the purpose of the service to the usual congregation, as well as those outside, because some may want to, for various reasons, excuse themselves from worship on that day.

The announcement of such a service may raise all sorts of pastoral concerns, not only with those who are specifically invited, but others for whom this raises issues that have been long suppressed. Time should be factored in to allow those with pastoral responsibility to address these appropriately.

But having come to a decision on the above you will need to make special arrangements for the day itself. There may be people coming who will feel stressed and emotional.

- Some because they fear what might be said because of preconceptions about the church's teaching on such subjects
- Others because they fear what emotions might be stirred up
- Some because the church was the place where their loved one's funeral took place
- Others because they have never actually been to that church before but are coming because of the subject matter

#### To this end it is useful to have

- stewards on hand to help people find car parking spaces
- people at the door who will be aware of strangers and sensitive enough to welcome without smothering
- people available to sit and/or pray with those who feel that they need to leave in the midst of
  the service.
- boxes of paper handkerchiefs all around the sanctuary



## We gather to Worship God

#### Preparing the Space

Having decided who will be your "target" congregation you will need to make appropriate decisions regarding the worship space and the "ambiance" created by the background music, images even the flowers on display.

**Music:** If you traditionally use an organ to accompany your worship, is this appropriate for this service? Given that this may be an alien environment for some, might it be helpful to play appropriate contemporary/secular music over the PA eg. *Bridge over troubled water (Simon & Garfunkle) Everybody hurts (REM) Fix You (Coldplay) etc* 

**Imagery:** For those who use digital projectors before and during worship, if you are expecting visitors it is probably advisable to keep any announcements projected beforehand to a minimum, and to use "soothing" images, like sunsets/ sunrises, beaches, lakes, wild flowers in a meadow (in keeping with the later reading from Psalm 103), or, given the contrast between the burdens people carry and what Jesus offers in the suggested gospel reading then perhaps feathers/ clouds/dandelion clock – light/ airy images, might be appropriate.

Flowers: Do make sure that any floral arrangements do not have overtones of funerals eg. Lilies, red and white carnations etc

#### **Opening Scripture Sentence**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (ANIV)

#### Call to Worship

Invite the congregation to join in this responsive call to worship

Jesus says "Come to me"

Lord, we come...

Come to me all of you

No exceptions, no exclusions...

Come to me all of you who are weary and burdened

Lord, we are so tired, so worn down...

Come to me all of you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.

Lord, we come...

#### **Opening Praise**

Suggested songs (to be sung seated, prayerfully by the congregation, choir or soloist)

As we are gathered (John Daniels)

Be still and know that I am God (Richard M S Irwin)

Be still for the presence of the Lord (David J. Evans)

To be in your presence (Noel Richards)

#### **Opening Prayers**

Gracious God

Lord of power and might,

the author and giver of all good things:

We come to you in Jesus name

In response to his invitation.

We come to worship and praise you.

We come to admit our failings and ask your forgiveness.

We come to bring our questions and our doubts to you.

We come to listen to your word that brings life.

We come to experience your healing and help.

We come to be empowered to offer help.

We come...

So Lord come to us by your Spirit

The Comforter, the counsellor.

Come to empower our praise.

Come to cleanse our hearts.

Come to inspire our thinking.

Come to heal our hurts.

May we know your blessing

And may we bless your name

Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. AMEN

#### OR.

Almighty and merciful God,

your Son revealed the wonder of your saving love

when he gave up the glories of heaven

to take on the form of a mortal man

to live as one of us and to give his life for all of us.

He came to us to invite us and make it possible

For us to come to you

Just as we are

Weak, weary, confused, frustrated

Having failed you, others and ourselves.

Renew us by your loving kindness,

and sustain us by your Spirit.
So that all we say and do and sing
May bring glory to your name and joy to your heart.
For we ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever, AMEN.

#### **Prayers of Confession**

The person leading should read the commandments of Jesus:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: 'The first commandment is,

"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."

The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.'

Then they should invite people to pray saying:

Lord, your love is eternal and your mercy immeasurable,

And out of your infinite grace you invite sinners to come to you.

But in the light of your love,

we reflect on our lack of love for you, for our neighbor, for one another and confess our failings before you

trusting in you to forgive us.

 $A\ time\ of\ silent\ confession$ 

May we each know the love and mercy of God reaching out to us in Christ
To grant us pardon, forgive us our sins, and enable us to live our lives as channels of his grace and blessing
AMEN



#### Suggested Further Praise

Note: When planning the service be mindful that if there are likely to be a large number of visitors then picking more familiar hymns/songs may be appropriate, although even the most traditional of hymns are becoming less familiar to those who do not frequent church. Also some who are unfamiliar with church culture may find more upbeat songs to be inappropriate, and songs associated with funerals may be upsetting.

Bless the lord/10,000 reasons (Matt Redman)

Blessed be your name (Matt Redman)

Come, now is the time to worship (Brian Doerksen)

Fill Thou my life, O Lord my God (Horatius Bonar)

Great is thy faithfulness (Thomas O. Chisholm)

Light of the world you stepped down into darkness (Chris Tomlin)

Rejoice, the Lord is King (Charles Wesley)

Sing of the Lord's goodness (Ernest Sands)

What a friend we have in Jesus (Joseph M. Scriven)

Your love, O God, has called us here (Russell Schulz-Widmar)

# We listen for the Word of God

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 103

O my soul, praise the source of all good things;

Praise his holy name from the centre of your being.

O my soul, praise the source of all good things;

And don't forget a single solitary blessing.

He erases all error and offense

He heals all illness and infirmity,

He raises you out of the pit

And dresses you with love and compassion.

He satisfies your hunger with the finest of fare

So that your strength is restored and you can soar like the eagle.

The Lord makes all things right in the end

He justly upholds the oppressed.

He revealed his ways to Moses,

He showed his people what he was able to do.

The Lord is full of compassion and grace,

He's not easily angered and he's overflowing with love.

He doesn't constantly point the finger,

nor does he nurse his anger for ever.

He doesn't treat us as our sins truly deserve,

nor does he pay us back for all our wrongs.

Can you jump up and touch the sky?

That's how much higher his love is than ours.

Can you reach to the other side of the earth?

That's how far he has separated our sins from us.

As parents passionately care for their children,

That's the compassion the Lord feels for those who fear him.

He knows us inside out,

he knows that we are dust.

Compared with him men and women live little longer than grass,

like wildflowers in the meadow;

the summer wind blows away their blossom

and you would never know they were there.

But God's love is for ever and ever

Eternally sustaining those who fear him,

And making everything right for their children's children

As they walk with him and keep his covenant commands.

The Lord's throne is firmly established in heaven,

And his kingdom includes all the earth.

Praise the Lord, you angels above,

You servants of God, quick to hear and spread his word.

Praise the Lord, you angel armies,

You servants of God who obey his command.

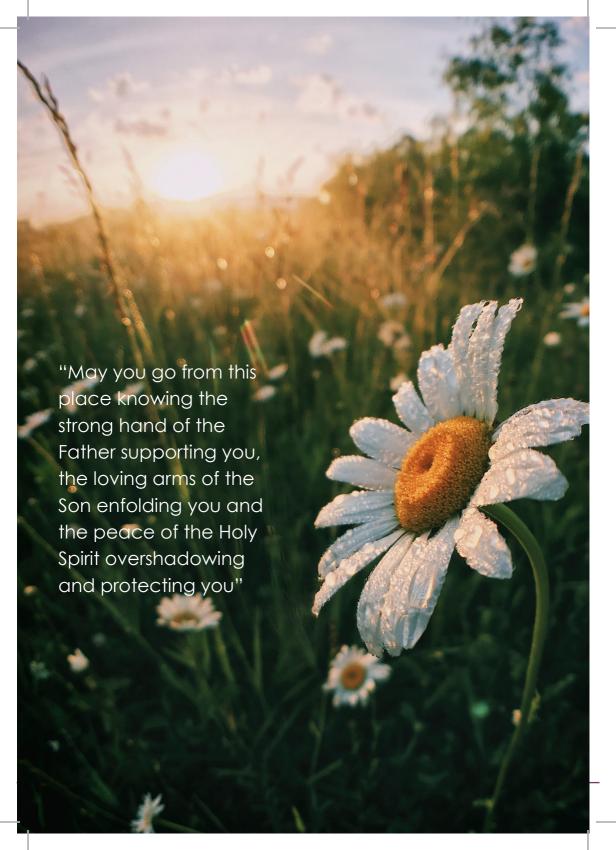
Praise the Lord, all of creation,

All his kingdom praise the Lord;

And may it begin with me -

O my soul, praise the source of all good things; Psalm 103 (Paraphrase)





# New Testament Reading: Colossians 3: 12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. *Colossians 3: 12-17 (NIV-UK)* 

### Gospel Reading: Matthew 11: 28-30

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.' *Matthew 11: 28-30 (NIV-UK)* 

#### Sermon Resources/Illustrations

Please note that these are not ready made sermons or even sermon outlines but rather some ideas based on the above passages that might inform any address that you might want to give at a Flourish! Sunday event. As with the rest of these resources please adapt them to your own context.

#### He forgives/he heals (Psalm 103 see also Colossians)

The connection between forgiveness and healing is found again and again throughout scripture, including in the healing miracles of Jesus. This doesn't necessarily mean that our illnesses are caused directly by our sins, but certainly a sense of guilt is often implicated in illness.

One eminent psychiatrist and head of a large psychiatric hospital in England once told the Rev. John Stott: "I could dismiss half my patients tomorrow if they could be assured of forgiveness."

A literary "parable" of forgiveness and the redemptive power of forgiveness preceding any sense of repentance is to be found in Victor Hugo's novel, "Les Miserables"

Jean Valjean was a peasant who was jailed for 19 years for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his hungry family. He entered prison a young idealist and left a hardened cynic. After his term was served he could find nowhere to stay... His papers clearly identified him as a felon, so no-one would rent him a room.

After a few nights sleeping rough, a bishop finally took pity on him and gave him a bed for the night. But after the bishop and his sister had gone to bed, Jean got up, rifled through

the cupboards for the family silver, and crept off into the darkness with six silver plates and a silver soup ladle, the bishop's pride and joy.

But he didn't get too far, and the next morning 3 policemen dragged him back to the bishop's door. His story to the

police, they told the bishop, was the unlikely one that

he had given Valjean the silver... Valjean expected the worst, but the bishop surprised him by greeting him like a long lost friend: "So there you are," he said, I am delighted to see you. Have you forgotten that I gave you the candlesticks as well? They're silver like the rest, and worth a good 200 francs." Valjean was astounded. As were the police. They left them alone together, but even when they were alone the bishop stuck to his story and gave the candlesticks to Valjean and said "Do not forget, do not ever forget that you promised me to use the money to make yourself an honest man." Valjean left, but the next day he was stopped in his tracks by the weight of his conscience and the memory of the bishop's words. He burst into tears and wept long and bitterly the tears of remorse

and guilt. But eventually he developed a resolve to live a better

life. He used the money from the silver to become a respected member of society, eventually becoming the mayor. The forgiveness of the bishop had triggered repentance in Valjean, and that repentance had completely transformed his life.

With suicide the idea of forgiveness can be problematic. Those bereaved by suicide can often find it difficult to forgive those who have died, or themselves for not doing enough or realizing how their loved one felt, or to forgive others who they believe have "caused" the suicide.

#### He raises you out of the pit (Psalm 103)

In the Christmas edition of the 2nd series of the West Wing Leo tells Josh a story to assure him of his support following his nervous breakdown:

"This guy's walking down the street when he falls in a hole. The walls are so steep he can't get out.

A doctor passes by and the guy shouts up, 'Hey you. Can you help me out?' The doctor writes a prescription, throws it down in the hole and moves on.

Then a priest comes along and the guy shouts up, 'Father, I'm down in this hole can you help me out?' The priest writes out a prayer, throws it down in the hole and moves on. Then a friend walks by, 'Hey, Joe, it's me can you help me out?' And the friend jumps in the hole. Our guy says, 'Are you stupid? Now we're both down here.' The friend says, 'Yeah, but I've been down here before and I know the way out.'"

#### Like wildflowers in the meadow (Psalm 103)

This part of Psalm 103 and other passages like it elsewhere in scripture are at one and the same time both painful for the bereaved (or people struggling with their own mortality) to hear, but also expresses perfectly how they often feel in the face of the world's seeming indifference to their pain. But wildflowers, whilst transitory, are still beautiful, indeed Jesus himself notes that they are even more beautiful than Solomon in all his glory (Matthew 6: 25-34) and whilst the rest of the world may overlook our pain God's love for us is inexhaustible and eternal.

#### Compassion: (Psalm 103 and Colossians)

The word that is translated as "compassion" in the New Testament refers to the spleen and conjures up the image of a "pain in the gut". Jesus is repeatedly described as having "compassion" on people. He would have used Aramaic however, and in Aramaic and Hebrew the word is associated with being "womblike" – life-giving, nourishing, embracing. But such compassion is demanding. In his book "The Way of the Heart"

#### Henri Nouwen says:

Let us not underestimate how hard it is to be compassionate. Compassion is hard because it requires the inner disposition to go with others to the place where they are weak, vulnerable, lonely, and broken. But this is not our spontaneous response to suffering. What we desire most is to do away with suffering by fleeing from it or finding a quick cure for it. As busy, active, relevant ministers, We want to earn our bread by making a real contribution. This means first and foremost doing something to show that our presence makes a difference. And so we ignore our greatest gift, which is our ability to enter into solidarity with those who suffer.

#### Clothe yourselves (Colossians)

In the modern world image is everything. Actresses on the red carpet are quizzed not on their performance, but on the supplier of their dresses, and even within some churches there are tensions regarding what is and is not appropriate to wear to worship p15 and indeed what a minister should wear both in worship and as they exercise their ministry in the rest of the week. In Colossians Paul gives special attention to what the Christians there should clothe themselves in, but it is not just about image, as the items of clothing are compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, with the overcoat of love. You won't find these items in a high street fashion store. But they are far more costly than any haute couture accessories.

#### Bear with each other (Colossians)

In the comedy series Miranda, the character Tilly, played by Sally Phillips, constantly has her mobile phone in her hand, and when a message comes in she will interrupt any conversation to read and answer it, simply telling those around her to "Bear with" until she is ready to give them her full attention, at least until another message interrupts proceedings again. If we are to "bear with" others, then we must give them our full attention, and not allow them to think that they are interrupting something more interesting or important elsewhere. Bearing with those with mental illness or those bereaved by suicide may be a long journey. In a piece by David Litts, published by the US Suicide Prevention Resource Centre it says:

"It is not unusual for well-meaning friends, fellow workers, classmates, etc. to inappropriately criticize those closest to the deceased for the manner or duration of their grieving. It is important to remember that people grieve at their own pace and in their own way. Sometimes, the difficult life of the deceased has caused such intense conflict and suffering for the loved ones that grief is complicated by a sense of relief. Whatever the mix, the emotions are usually intense and complex, and require unusual sensitivity and understanding from those in roles of support."

#### Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... (Colossians)

Peace is one of the repeated greetings of Paul in his letters, reflecting the Hebrew benediction of "Shalom" and Jesus' repeated reference to peace, including his promise to his disciples of a peace the world cannot give before his death (John 14: 27) and greeting them with the words "Peace" after his resurrection (John 20: 19-21). Peace is one of the things longed for by those with suicidal thoughts, those who live with someone who is mentally ill and those who have been bereaved by suicide.

#### Burdens (Matthew)

Sometimes when we are going on holiday we underestimate the weight of the luggage we are taking. The same size of suitcase or rucksack may hide a heavy weight inside, and we will never know until we try to lift it ourselves or put it on the scales. Years ago Physiotherapists often find themselves treating people who have injured themselves carrying heavy bags, including women who have carried a heavy shoulder-bag on the same shoulder for years. Sometimes we get so used to the bag that we are carrying that we don't realise how heavy it is (or that it is even getting heavier) until we have done ourselves some serious physical damage. The evangelist J.John tells of a hitchhiker picked up by a man in a jeep on a deserted road in the American mid-west. The hiker got into the front seat, but didn't take his rucksack off, and so he was pressed up against the dashboard and windscreen.

"Take the bag off and make yourself comfortable." said the driver.

"Oh no!" said the hiker... "I am glad of the lift, but I'll carry the bag."

Later in Galatians Paul writes:

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

#### **Rest for your souls** (*Matthew*)

Rest goes along with peace... but the rest and peace offered here is clearly not about "putting your feet up" as it goes on to talk about "yokes" which are equipment for work. Jesus helps us to get on with life rather than run away from it. There is a saying "No rest for the wicked" and sometimes people don't allow themselves rest because they have not forgiven themselves for something or other (see above). They can end up like hamsters of a wheel, or runners on a treadmill travelling at a punishing pace but ultimately going nowhere. Jesus, however offers rest and direction to all who would come to him.

#### For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew)

One preacher suggested that if Jesus had an advertising bill board it could have read, "Troubled? Make the change to Yoke Light" But Jesus doesn't have an advertising bill board and isn't selling a product – although it could be argued that Christians and the Church are his advertising bill board... Are we doing a good job of getting his message across? Jesus doesn't say that he will take all burdens away, but that his burden is light, some commentators suggest that this is a reference to a well-balanced yoke, for ploughing with oxen or for a person carrying water or other items... If the load is properly balanced it will feel so much lighter... even more so if it is a load or burden shared with others.



# We respond to the Word of God

#### Music for a Time of Reflection

Broken Things – (Julie Millar/ Juliette Turner)

Does anybody hear her? (Casting Crowns)

Everybody hurts (REM)

Fix You (Coldplay)

Give me strength (Eric Clapton)

Jesu help me to stand (Alison Krauss)

Walk a mile in my shoes (Elvis Presley)

When will I ever learn (Van Morrison)

#### **Creative Responses**

- 1) Jigsaw: Distribute pieces of a jigsaw to every member of the congregation (it doesn't matter what the picture is as it will never be reassembled) and invite them to write their name on it. Explain that every person is part of a picture that only God knows, and only God knows all the pressures they are facing in life, their joys and their sorrows. But we can pray for each other even if we only know each other's name. Invite people to swap their jigsaw pieces with people they don't know in the congregation (perhaps during the sharing of the peace below or in a separate act). Encourage them to keep their jigsaw piece with them throughout the week (in their purse or wallet) and pray for the person on it whenever they come across it.
- 2) Rocks and Feathers: Have rocks/pebbles/bricks/blocks placed around the congregation and at this point encourage the congregation members to pick them up and weigh them in their hands as they reflect on the burdens they are currently carrying. Then invite them to come forward and place the rock in a pile at the front of the church, taking in exchange a feather from a bowl, or a "business card" imprinted with a feather and Matthew 11: 29-30.

#### **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

Lord God, Gracious Father, Loving Jesus, Comforting Spirit. We pray for your compassion and guidance. We pray that we may all take your yoke upon us and learn from you.

For those of us who struggle with our mental health, we seek your strengthening presence in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones. May we find the channels of grace and healing that you have for us, flowing from many directions, through family, friends, medical professionals and through your church.

Help us to see ourselves as you see us; people of value and creativity and potential. May we come to understand the interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit in bringing about health and wholeness, taking our pace from you rather than being caught up in the exhausting whirl of contemporary life.

God in your mercy

#### Hear our prayer

For those of us whose lives have been torn apart by the loss of a loved one through suicide, we pray for that peace that only you can offer, that peace that consoles in the absence of answers, that peace that soothes away the anger, that peace that is present in the abiding absence. May you restore relationships that have been ripped apart in the turmoil, renew a sense of hope and purpose in life and re-establish the ability to experience joy, even in the midst of that sorrow that never fully ebbs away. God in your mercy

#### Hear our prayer

For society as a whole we pray for the resources and resolve to deal with mental health and suicide appropriately. Be with doctors, therapists, researchers, social workers, and all those in the helping professions as they seek to overcome ignorance and injustice with care and compassion. Be with opinion formers and policy makers, those in the media and in government so that these issues may be talked about and addressed free from prejudice and stigma, and that social pressures that impact on mental health may be addressed, benefitting the wellbeing of society as a whole. God in your mercy

#### Hear our prayer

For those of us who are members of your church, your body here on earth help us to clothe that body in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and the sacrificial love of Christ. Enable us to open our hearts and homes to those who need help, to open our eyes and our ears to see and hear beyond the superficiality of daily engagement with others, so that we might recognise the hurt, confusion and fear in the lives of those around us. Enable us to find ways to be inclusive of persons living with mental illness in our everyday lives. Inspire us as we seek to overcome fear, acquire knowledge, and advocate for compassionate and enlightened attitudes, treatment and services and may we go forward from this place today with a renewed sense of vision, hope, and possibilities for the future. God in your mercy

#### Hear our prayer

We remember those who have died through suicide, giving thanks that they are free from the turmoil and pressures that they experienced here on earth. But in the light of their death may we do all that we can to take care of those still living, so that fewer might see suicide as the only answer to their troubles. We rejoice that you can work all things for good, even such dreadful loss, and that in Christ no-one is ever separated from your love. In the light of that unbreakable bond of love we give thanks that we are one family on earth and in heaven and in the words of Jesus we join in the prayer that he taught us praying as one family to

one Father in heaven:

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come, your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours

Now and forever. AMEN

#### Sharing the Peace

If "Sharing the Peace" is not a routine part of your church liturgy, explain that after a bidding and response that you will invite the congregation to rise and greet others with the words "The peace of the Lord be with you." (this may be an appropriate time to swap the jigsaw pieces above)

Paul said: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

After the congregation has returned to their places remind them that they are called on to share that peace with people beyond the walls of the church after the benediction.

#### Songs of Response

Abide with me (Henry Francis Lyte)

Amazing Grace (John Newton)

Beauty for brokenness (Graham Kendrick)

Don't be afraid, my love is stronger (John Bell)

Everyone needs compassion (Ben Fielding/Reuben Morgan)

Filled with compassion (Noel Richards)

God of compassion, in mercy befriend us (John J. Moment)

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds (John Newton)

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds (John Newton/Chris Bowater)

I heard the voice of Jesus say (Horatius Bonar)

Jesus Calls Us 'Oer the Tumult (Cecil F. Alexander)

Love divine all loves excelling (Charles Wesley)

Rock of ages (Augustus M. Toplady)

# WE GO WITH THE BLESSING OF GOD

The key idea of a Flourish! Sunday Service is not simply that people should leave knowing the blessing of God in the service, but that they should go into a hurting world carrying the blessing of God to others. To that end have the Flourish! Z-Cards or other appropriate literature available at the door. It is suggested that you might wrap the cards or any literature in a ribbon (a white ribbon is the usual colour used on World Suicide Awareness Day) as this might indicate the precious nature of the information enclosed and discourage them from simply putting the literature straight into the recycling bin.

#### Benediction

May you go from this place knowing

the strong hand of the Father supporting you

the loving arms of the Son enfolding you

and the peace of the Holy Spirit overshadowing and protecting you

Now and forever more. AMEN

#### **Closing Songs**

In Christ alone (Keith Getty/Stewart Townend)

Here is love (William Rees/William Edwards)

How deep the father's love (Stewart Townend)

Love divine all loves excelling (Charles Wesley)

There is a higher throne (Keith & Kristyn Getty)

A practical Sunday Service handbook for churches on suicide prevention, supportingpeople bereaved by suicide and promoting emotional wellbeing







For further information about the initiative, or to request training support, visit www.wewillflourish.com

or email the Flourish Coordinator on info@wewillflourish.com