

Community-Developed

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Eternal Life Sunday **A Candle-Lighting Memorial Service**

- *List the names of those who have died between the first and last Sundays of the church year*
- *Send a letter of intent, information and invitation to the family of the deceased. In the letter, outline the service and its purpose*
- *The pastor or a pastoral care lay person (e.g., deacon/elder) should lead the service. This service requires careful planning and good emotional energy. It is a person-centred service. The visual, the symbolism and the participation are more important than what is said, and form the essence of the service.*

Pastoral Prayer

We have assembled

To mourn with those who mourn

To grieve with those who grieve

To be still, to remember, to say thank you

To reach out in hope.

We know of death, we believe in resurrection.

We long for a true fullness of life.

Amen.

Candle Lighting Ceremony

- *The family members of those who had died are seated in the front pews.*
- *The candle lighting table contains the number of white candles equal to the number of deaths, and one large white candle in front of a cross. This large Christ candle is lit prior to the service.*
- *The worship leader, at the table, reads the names of the deceased in alphabetical order. Their date of death and age are optional.*
- *For each name read, the family comes forward and lights a candle in remembrance of the deceased. They light their candle from the Christ candle.*
- *After all the candles have been lit, light one additional candle to represent all the other losses which we are remembering again from years past.*
- *Observe a time of silence.*

Hymn

634 HWB *Let hope and sorrow now unite*

Reading

Be still and know that I am God
That I who made earth's tiny span
Will guard and keep you in my plan.
For I am God.