# Service of Reflection and Thanksgiving

# for the life of Queen Elizabeth II

*This service may be adapted for use in your own context. You will also find resources at* [*https://www.churchofengland.org/remembering-her-majesty-queen/resources-and-liturgy-death-hm-queen*](https://www.churchofengland.org/remembering-her-majesty-queen/resources-and-liturgy-death-hm-queen)

Welcome to you all. At this momentous time of change in the life of the nation it’s good to have a moment to pause and reflect; to bring our own thanks to God for the life of Queen Elizabeth, our MU patron. Truly, hers was a life well-lived.

We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ, which the Queen continually reflected in her life of service.

*Lighting of a candle*

Almighty God,

at this sad and solemn time

we bring you heartfelt gratitude

for the life of our Patron, Queen Elizabeth II.

We praise you for her shining witness

to the truth of your eternal love,

throughout the years of her reign.

We give thanks for the stability she provided

through times of peace and security;

through times of challenge and change.

As we mourn the passing of our monarch

we pray for her family in their sorrow,

and ask for your guidance and wisdom

for all involved in the weighty matters of state.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In a time of mourning we find comfort and hope in the word of God.

This I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
**22**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
**23**they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

*Lamentations 3:21-23*

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; **26**and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

*John 11:25-26*

I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39**neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Romans 8:38-39*

In the past days much has been said about the life and example of Queen Elizabeth. To share a flavour of these:

Her Late Majesty taught as much, if not more, about God and grace, both in words and the actions that reinforced them, than any other contemporary figure. We remember her not for what she had, but for what she gave.

*Archbishop of Canterbury*

Her guidance and support of Mothers’ Union over the decades has enabled us to achieve so much in impacting communities and touching lives. During times of ongoing war and turmoil around the world, she reminded us of the healing power of forgiveness, peace and reconciliation.  This inspired us and encouraged us to work for harmony and good relationships among all people in our communities.

*Sheran Harper, MU Worldwide President*

But perhaps we gain most insight from the words of the Queen herself. She often spoke about how her faith encouraged and sustained her as she continued to live out the promises she made before God at her Coronation. In her Christmas message in 2014 she described it in these words:

*For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace... is an inspiration and an anchor in life... I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad.*

We take a moment now in the quiet to remember, reflect and pray.

As the Queen has finally laid down her crown of duty and service, the words of the Apostle Paul encapsulate her life and her eternal future.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8**Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

*2 Timothy 4:7-8*

Thanks be to God!

We end our time in prayer.

Almighty God,

we bring to you our gratitude

for the life and reign of Elizabeth our Queen.

We thank you for her support of our work and vision

through her Patronage of Mothers’ Union.

We look to her example of selfless service

as we seek to live out our Christian faith

by the transformation of communities worldwide.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.

Bless his reign and the life of our nation.

Help us to work together

so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness

flourish among us;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A final blessing for those who mourn and for us all:

The Lord bless us and keep us;
the Lord make his face shine on us,
and be gracious to us;
the Lord turn his face towards us
and give us peace. Amen