

A Dementia Friendly Order of Service

This order of service has two options, one for churches where set liturgical patterns and worship texts are commonplace and one for more informal church services. This is a guide structure for a Dementia Friendly church service and can be used as a framework, mix or match or as a whole. Remember to try and stick to a single theme throughout the service and try to keep the service length to a maximum of 20 minutes long. Try to use the same basic framework for each service that you hold as this will bring continuity and familiarity to those attending.

Greeting

Service Leader welcomes everyone, says who they are and the reason for meeting today. Introduce the theme/thought subject

Service Leader:

May God our Father, Jesus His Son and
the Holy Spirit be with you

Or

An Informal greeting of blessing

All:

and also with you

Service Leader: Let us sing together

Familiar Hymn (see our list of suggested hymns if you need inspiration). If there are familiar verses and a chorus just sing those. Remember some of those attending may not still be able to read and if you repeat a familiar first verse and chorus they will still be able to fully participate in the singing.

Confession and Absolution

Service Leader:

We come to a point in our service where we look to our loving God and Father and ask him to forgive us for all the things that we have done wrong. We admit these to our ever-loving God and Saviour knowing He will hear us and forgive us.

All:

Father God,
we have let you down and done
wrong before you.
We are sorry and turn from our sin.
Because of Your love displayed on the cross
please have mercy on us.
Take away all our sin and cleanse us.
Make us new in Your sight
and restore our joy in You,
through Jesus our Lord.
Amen

Or

An open spoken form of confession /
absolution

Service Leader:

Merciful Father take away and forgive us of
our sins. Restore us before You so
that we may praise Your Holy name
in close communion with You
Through Jesus our Lord

All Amen

Service Leader:

Let us sing again to the Lord with thankful hearts

Familiar Hymn (see our list of suggested hymns if you need inspiration)

Reading

Choose a short bible reading linked to your thought. Remember that someone living with dementia may have a shorter attention span and may have problem following a long reading

After the reading this response may be used if appropriate

Service Leader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Short Thought

Share a short word linked to the service theme. Try and keep this no longer than 5-6 minutes. If you can make this interactive (bear in mind level of capacity) or sensory (using something that smells eg. herbs/flowers or, something textural to touch or, something interesting to look at). Remember, if there are many people in the service try and think of ways that minimise the amount of time it takes for everyone to touch/smell/see/hear. Use helpers to take things around and have several of the item to share out all at once. Think about things that could invoke memory responses (old photographs of holiday destinations or activities, sand, silk, flowers etc.).

Service Leader:

Shall we sing again (depending on time)

Familiar Hymn (see our list of suggested hymns if you need inspiration)

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Service Leader:

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen

Service Leader:

Lord Jesus remember us before Your Father and fill us with Your Holy Spirit.

All: Hear our prayer (optional)

Service Leader:

Shall we sing again (depending on time)

Familiar Hymn (see our list of suggested hymns if you need inspiration)

Final Blessing

Service Leader:

We close the service by saying together the words found at the end of 2 Corinthians

All: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost,
be with us all. Amen.