

Additional Suggestions & Changes for Liturgy of Hope:

Having listened to the feedback in response to the experience of praying this liturgy at our recent workshop, we are offering these suggestions alongside those found in the resource pack. We hope that they will be helpful to the organizing group.

Again parishes will make their own local decisions.

The suggestions are as follows...

- ❖ **An alternative option to the three monologues**
- ❖ **Changing the phrase in monologue three from “When my son took his own life” to “when my son died...”**
- ❖ **Addition of Julian of Norwich piece – “All will be well...”**
- ❖ **Insertion into the introduction to Prayers of Intercession**
- ❖ **Bringing back of people who delivered monologues at the end with words of thanks and hope...**
- ❖ **Raising of candles at closing hymn with words of introduction**
- ❖ **Further suggestions for closing hymn**

An alternative option to the three Monologues: (This monologue is delivered by one person instead of the three monologues as provided in the resource pack. If this option is chosen, there is no need for the prayer leader to introduce it as long as the person knows when to come forward. The key point in the following is found in the final paragraph which should be delivered in a light and friendly tone...)

“We turn to our God in prayer
and we place before God the cares and worries of this time.

In these days,
together as a community we face the reality of
job losses and the threat of losing our jobs,
of young people leaving college and education and still struggling to find a job,
the worry of possibly losing a family home.

Together as a community we face the reality of coping with long term illness and new found ill health, with health tests and treatments, with the worry that comes with illness for the sick and for their family,
we face the grief that comes with the death of loved ones.

Together as a community we face the reality of of addictions to alcohol, drugs and gambling and the harm these addictions do to all concerned.

Together as a community we face the reality of our time.
But tonight as a community we stand united and we say that we are stronger together than when apart.
We say and hear and believe that we shall get through this and that we shall be well
that all will be well...
there is hope, there is light, there is joy...

(the person then receives a candle from presider and places it before the icon of the holy family...one candle rather than three in this option)

Reflection: All will be well...

(This reflection could be read after the quiet time and immediately before the prayers of intercession – or at another suitable time within the liturgy)

Our good Lord answered
all the questions and doubts which I could raise,
saying most comfortingly:
I make all things well,
and I can make all things well,
and I shall make all things well,
and I will make all things well;
and you will see for yourself
that every kind of thing will be well. (Julian of Norwich)

Prayers of intercession introduction:

In sure and certain hope that all will be well in God, let us stand and bring our prayers to God.

Final words of thanks & hope:

At the end of the closing prayer the three monologue people come forward, take their candles from before the icon of the holy family and go to their positions. (If only one reader was used at the beginning this person could deliver all of the following):

Reader 1: I give thanks to God for the gift of this night, for the strength and support we have given to one another.

Reader 2: I give thanks to God for the spirit of hope I found here tonight, for the reminder that in this Advent season we can be people of hope, of a smile, of lightness for one another.

Reader 2: I give thanks to God that we can leave here tonight with a sense that it is okay, indeed that it is right, that we celebrate the joy of this coming Christmas.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord R. Thanks be to God.

Raising of Candles at Closing Hymn:

Introduction by prayer leader:

Together we walk into our future with hope, believing that God can, shall and will make all things well.

So we leave here on this Advent night and we know that it is okay to look forward to Christmas, that we can welcome the joy of this season into our lives, that we can rejoice.

And so in solidarity with one another and in joy let us raise our candles as we sing together our closing hymn...

Closing Hymn: *This liturgy will be very well served by a hymn at this point that is uplifting and joyful. The parish may well have a hymn in its repertoire that suits this purpose and is not included below. In this case please feel free to choose it.*

All the Ends of the Earth – Bob Dufford (Gather #526)

Sing of the Lord's Goodness – Ernest Sands (Gather #532)

Glory and Praise to our God – Dan Schutte (Gather #537)

Blest be the Lord – Dan Schutte (Gather #585)