
GREETING

All who are able may stand. A leader may greet the people informally, name the person for whom they gather in thanksgiving, and interpret briefly the meaning of the service. One or more of the following greetings may be used.

A

LEADER

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.**¹⁶

PEOPLE

And also with you.

B

LEADER

**Friends,
we gather here in the protective shelter
of God's healing love.
We are free to pour out our grief,
release our anger,
face our emptiness,
and know that God cares.
We gather here as God's people,
conscious of others who have died
and of the frailty
of our own existence on earth.
We come to comfort and to support one another
in our common loss.
We gather to hear God's word of hope
that can drive away our despair
and move us to offer God our praise.
We gather to commend to God with thanksgiving
the life of _____
name
as we celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection.
For whether we live or whether we die,
we belong to Christ who is Lord
both of the dead and of the living.**¹⁷