We gather together this day

in these solemn and painful moments

to commend Baby to

God’s merciful keeping.

Though we gather in grief we gather also in love.

Love for Baby and love for each other.

We meet in God’s loving presence

to acknowledge our loss of one so young.

God knows and loves Baby.

We ask for God’s grace

that in our pain we may find comfort;

in our sorrow, grace;

in our questioning, understanding;

and in the experience of death, resurrection.

Let us be silent and make our own prayers.

*Silence*

Lord, you love us and watch over us;

you have known us from the very beginning;

and nothing is hidden from you.

Help us now as we entrust Baby to you,

knowing that he is safe in your care;

in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

Thoughts and reflections

Lord, you have searched me and known me.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;

That I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you,

when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,

when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them.

I try to count them - they are more than the sand;

I come to the end - I am still with you.

139:1, 13-18

Music for Reflection—

Let us Pray

Loving God,

We thank you that Baby is, like us

an heir to your promises;

Sharing with us in the humanity

That you have redeemed in Christ,

And in the eternal life revealed to us through him. ***Amen*.**

Gracious God,

May your arms enfold us in our grief.

Support Mum and Dad who named their baby, Baby,

Whom with love they have held and will treasure in their hearts.

Comfort all of Baby’s family,

Who have opened their hearts to him.

Almighty Father,

You are love,

So when love causes pain, come and heal us,

When love seems far away, come and find us,

When love asks for sacrifice, then grant us strength,

And when love grows cold, come as a fire and warm us into life again.

Father you are love,

We have seen your love in Jesus Christ.

His cross says your love is without limit,

His resurrection says that your love is triumphant,

And your Holy Spirit says that we are never separate from your love.

We thank you for the love of Mum and Dad,

For the love from which Baby has come,

The love that will go with him,

and the love that will be his home.

In faith and trust in that love do we give Baby to you,

that the Angels may be there to guard him,

And the saints to nurture him in love.

And You will pour out the riches of your grace upon him   
that he will have peace.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

As we have given Baby to you,

so do we commit herbody to the elements,

Earth to earth

Ashes to ashes,

Dust to dust,

In the sure and certain hope of resurrection that

you have given us in Jesus Christ.

The Blessing

And you held me –

by Janet Morley

and you held me and there were no words

and there was no time and you held me

and there was only wanting

and being held and being filled with wanting

and I was nothing but letting go

and being held

and there was no words and there needed to be no words

and there was no terror

only stillness

and I was wanting nothing

and it was like fullness and it

was like aching for God

and it was touch and warmth and

darkness

and no time and no words and we flowed

and I flowed and I was not empty

and I was given up to the dark and in the darkness I was not lost

and the wanting was like fullness and I could hardly hold it

and I was held and you were dark and warm

and without time and without words

and you held me

Nosuch Crematorium

The Cord   
  
We are connected,   
Our child and we,  
by an invisible cord,  
That no one can see.   
  
It's not like the cord,  
That connects us 'til birth   
This cord can't been seen   
By any on Earth.   
  
This cord does it's work,   
Right from the start,   
It binds us together,  
Attached to our hearts.   
  
We know that it's there   
Though no one can see   
The invisible cord   
From our child to we.   
  
The strength of this cord   
Is hard to describe.   
It can't be destroyed   
It can't be denied.   
  
It's stronger than any cord   
Man could create   
It withstands the test   
Can hold any weight.   
  
And though you are gone,   
Though you're not here with we,  
The cord is still there   
But no one can see.   
  
It pulls at our heart s  
We am bruised...   
We am sore,   
But this cord is our lifeline   
As never before.

We am thankful that God   
Connects us this way   
Parents and child   
Death can't take it away!   
~ Author Unknown

A Funeral Service for

**Baby**