

Entrance - video montage

Gathering - vision

Engage

As you will know, yesterday afternoon, Queen Elizabeth II died. Today, we are going to share a special collective worship to share thoughts and ideas about our late Queen.

- So, what will happen now?
  - We have a new King - King Charles III
- We are also now in national mourning for 10 days - before Queen Elizabeth's funeral. So you may see the following:
  - Flags flying at 'half mast' as a sign of respect
  - People wearing black clothes to show that they are mourning the death of Queen Elizabeth II
  - People making tributes - in words or perhaps laying flower tributes at places associated with the Queen

Jubilee Slide

Recently, we had a wonderful time marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - 70 years as our queen. Let's read the ending of the letter that she wrote to all of us at that time:

And so as I look forward to continuing to serve you with all my heart, I hope this Jubilee will bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities – after some difficult times for so many of us – in order to enjoy the celebrations and to reflect on the positive developments in our day-to-day lives that have so happily coincided with my reign.

Tom Servant

Elizabeth II

- Which words or phrases stand out?
- What does that make us think about Queen Elizabeth II?

When marking the Jubilee - we discussed the idea of a legacy. *Can you remember what this means?*

- *Lasting impression, change, accomplishments*

Tributes

Let's see what others thought of her and will remember her for:



## Reflection

People feel deeply saddened at the Queen's death and will always remember her for her wonderful work. In her letter to the country earlier this year, she signed the letter as 'your servant'. This shows us that she put others before herself and stood true to her Christian faith.

In reading the tributes by others, there are many common themes. In particular people describe her as a **constant**. In one way, this is because for the last 70 years she has been our queen. That means that most of the population have only ever known Queen Elizabeth II as the monarch. In another way, it means that she was always the same - strong, steadfast and unwavering.

And now, a thought to take us forward in learning from Queen Elizabeth II as an example in how to live well:

Each year, the queen makes a speech for Christmas Day. In her Christmas Day speech in 2019, the Queen said *"It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change."* You may like to think at this point of a small change you can make - a little like the new leaf we were talking about at the beginning of the week. The Bible says: "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin" (Zechariah 4:10).

## Prayer

Dear Lord,

We give thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth II. Thank you for her constancy, dependability and graciousness. Please help us all to be inspired by her example as a servant for others - staying true to faith and upholding sincere dignity. As we enter ten days of national mourning, help us to share our thoughts and feelings with those we love. Please bless King Charles III and his family at this significant and sorrowful time.

Amen

## Sending

Photo montage or BBC Clip