Prayer for a stillborn or miscarried baby
This prayer could be prayed by a family member, parish minister or close friend of the parents. It may take place in the hospital or at home. Depending on the circumstances, parts of the ritual may be adapted or
omitted as per the wishes of the family.

If there are other children, their names should also be mentioned

Song OPTIONAL: Called by Name, By Name I have Called you, All I Ask, Welcome Home or We will Rise Again

**Leader:** We gather in sadness to remember and to say goodbye to (...Name/baby...), a child of God, and the child of (...Name...) and (...Name...).
The birth of a child is a time of excitement and promise
It is a time of new life and possibility.
But for us there is the pain of death;
the sadness of a life ended almost as soon as it was begun.
There is an aching emptiness for a child we barely knew.

The trees and the flowers blossom and die,
the birds of the air, the fish in waters, and all the animals of the earth.
They too are born and in time return to the dust of earth.
But only the human family asks why.
Only we shake our fists in anger and demand to understand!
Why? Why? Why?

Only humans remember the dead.
Only the human family carries the memory of a lost loved one forever.
Only we have hope that life is changed, not ended.

In faith, we cling to the hope in Jesus Christ.
We gather in the presence of the God who wept as Jesus,
embraced death on the cross, the God who raised Jesus to life.

God of all the peoples you call each of us by name,
and our names are written indelibly in your heart.

We pray for (...Name...) and (...Name...),
That they might know the comfort and strength of family and friends in their time of grief, as they stand within the mystery of human life and death.

**Word of God**

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. Even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

 (Matthew 10:29)

**Commendation of the Child**

A candle of remembrance may be lit. This candle might be used on the anniversary of the child’s death or at family gatherings to hold the memory of this child in place.

**Leader:** Into your hands, loving God, we entrust the life of our baby, (...Name...).
Sure and certain that in you nothing is lost or wasted, we trust that you will hold our baby secure for all eternity.

**Final Prayer**

Loving God,
in good times and in bad, in darkness and in light,
in joy and in sadness, we cling to you.
Help (...Name...) and (...Name...) to trust your love
and to find comfort in the presence of their family and friends
May baby (...Name...) and all those who have gone to everlasting life,

rest in peace. Amen