SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICES Suggested Format for a Christian Worship Service for Residents with Dementia

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HYMN

One verse from a well-known hymn old enough to have been sung by an 80
year-old in her youth.

PRAYER

A short prayer or collect, addressing themes of concern to elderly patients losing their memory (e.g. family, aging, fear, loneliness, identity).

SCRIPTURE
A single lesson that touches upon the pain of Alzheimer patients or that offers hope and encouragement. If possible, use the King James Version (it is more familiar to the elderly.)

HOMILY

A 3-5 minute homily touching upon the themes of
your Scripture selection. Do not be afraid to tell stories, especially stories rooted in your experience. Narrative will often touch a cord that exposition leaves cold. Keep in mind always that Alzheimer patients are desperately looking for ways to reconnect with other human beings. Focus on relationships, rather than abstractions. Kindle
hope.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A prayer so well known and learned so early that most patients will be able to recite it, at least in part.

BLESSING
A blessing that offers peace and encourages the congregation to hold fast to the loving memory they still possess.