

In Life and Death

Edited by Kenneth Twinn

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A Book of Occasional Services Edited by Kenneth Twinn

The Lindsey Press, 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2

Arrangement © The Lindsey Press 1968

Designed by Grenville Needham

Set in Monotype Bembo

Printed by Gabare Ltd in Winchester

Acknowledgements

The publishers acknowledge with gratitude permission to use copyright material in this book, mainly in the section of suggested readings for funerals. Those for which thanks must be offered are as follows:

Prayer by Mary Ely Lyman (Rev SH Fritchman). Passage from Rabindranath Tagore (Macmillan & Co Ltd)

Passage from *The Three Lives of Helen Keller* by Harrity and Martin (Hodder and Stoughton Ltd) Passage from George Santayana's introduction to Spinoza's Ethics (JM Dent and Sons Ltd and EP Dutton & Co Inc)

Passage from John Masefield (Society of Authors and the late Dr John Masefield, OM)

Passage from Ivor Gurney (Mr Ronald Gurney)

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The abbreviations used for biblical references follow the style of the Oxford University Press; when followed by 'GT' they indicate that the passage is given in the form in which it appears in *A Golden Treasury of the Bible*.

Preface

This book is not a revision of the *Book of Occasional Services*, published in 1932, but an entirely new compilation, though this and other similar handbooks have been drawn upon.

An alternative form of communion, a service for the installation of a minister, a short service for the committal of ashes, and a selection of benedictions are new features so far as books for the use of Unitarian ministers in this country are concerned.

The specimen addresses in the services are intended for the use of those who may not have much experience in conducting such services, or who are called upon at short notice to conduct such a service; a minister would normally prepare his own address. Likewise, the printed prayers would not necessarily preclude the use of extempore or other prayers. Indeed, though each service is cast in a complete form, all may be varied as desired. Blank pages are left frequently so that additional material which might be needed regularly can be added from other sources.

The word 'her' or 'them' should be substituted when appropriate for the word 'him' when printed in italics, and other occasional words printed in italics may need similar amendment.

1. Baptism, Christening or Dedication of Children

The minister shall read the following or other suitable SENTENCES:

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant, and remember to do his commandments.

(Ps 103:17)

The Lord our God is one Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words which I command thee this day shall be upon thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (Dt 6:4-7)

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, he shall gather the lambs in his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. (Is 40:11)

In that hour came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, 'Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?' And he called to him a little child, and set him in the midst of them, and said, 'Verily I say unto you, except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall no wise enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me, and whosoever receiveth me, receiveth him that sent

me; for he that is least among you all, the same is great.' (Mt 18:1-4)

And they brought unto him little children, that he should touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was moved with indignation, and said unto them, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no wise enter therein.' And he took them in his arms, and laid his hands upon them, and blessed them.
(Mk 10:13-16)

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:
The soul that rises with us, our life's star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar;
Not in entire forgetfulness,
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home:
Heaven lies about us in our infancy!

William Wordsworth

Take heed of this small child of earth.
He is great: he hash in him God most high.

Victor Hugo

What thou hast given to me, Lord, here I bring thee,
Odour, and light and the magic of gold;
Feet which must follow thee, lips which must sing thee,
Limbs which must ache for thee ere they grow old.
What thou hast given to me, Lord, here I render,
Life of my own life, the fruit of my love;
Take him, yet leave him me, till I shall render
Count of the precious charge to thee above.

Charles Kingsley

Then the following or other suitable ADDRESS shall be given:

This is a service of thanksgiving, of recognition and of dedication. We thank God for the gift of this child, and for all the divine possibilities in each new birth. We believe that all who are born into this world are children of God, and therefore in some measure share his Spirit. We recognize his membership of the human family and welcome him into the fellowship of our faith, trusting that in it he may ever find inspiration, love, joy and peace. And so we pray that he may prove worthy of his origin and heritage and be faithful to all the tasks of life he will be called to fulfil.

You, too, dedicate yourselves together to the care of your child in all *his* needs. It is a serious and solemn responsibility, which may sometimes cause anxiety or demand sacrifices, but also bring the deepest joy; and we join with you in your prayer for the wisdom, patience and understanding whereby you may aid this little one, committed for a time to your care, to learn the love and service of God and man.

Will you, therefore, teach *him* by precept and example, as God shall help you, to walk in the way of truth, righteousness and love?

Then shall each parent say:

I will.

If it be desired, there being a god-parent or god-parents present, the following may be added:

And you, who by your part in this service, have consented to be god-parent(s), also undertake a serious responsibility — if need be, to take this child under your care. May the influence that you will exercise be filled with sympathy and understanding and love, so that the child may the more willingly listen to your words of advice. Remember, however, that, as with the parents, what you are is of far greater importance than what you may say. Strive, therefore, to show at all times whatsoever things are just, pure, lovely and of good report.

Then the minister, taking the child in his arms, shall say:

Name this child.

Then, repeating the name, he shall say:

This water is a symbol of the purity that God desires in the hearts of all children. N, in the spirit of Jesus and of all holy men and women, we dedicate you to the love of God and the service of man.

or

N, I baptise you in the name of God our Father, and in the spirit of his Son, Jesus Christ.

or

N, I consecrate you to God, to the keeping of his love and to the service of his truth.

May our God and Father bless you; may he strengthen you in difficulty, comfort you in sorrow, guide you at all times into his truth; and may his presence be ever with you, in life and in death. Amen.

Returning the child to the mother, the minister shall offer this or other PRAYER:

O God, our Father, we lift up our hearts in thanksgiving for this little child, to be a living witness of thy power and love. We here bring him before thee, praying that as he shall increase in strength and stature, he may, by thy grace, grow also in wisdom and love. We pray that he may come to know the strength and peace that sustained those who have gone before, and, knowing, to follow where they have led. Bless those who have care of him, that, upheld by the faith of the past, and looking to the future in trust, they may guide him in the paths of righteousness and peace. So may he be to them, in prosperity and adversity, in happiness and sorrow, a source of comfort and joy. Deepen the reverence with which these parents undertake the sacred task committed to them, help them to cleanse their own hearts and renew their loyalty to all that is fair and generous and true, and teach them ever to look to thee for the patience and discernment they will need. Thou knowest the depth of their love; grant that it may be enlightened by spiritual insight and sympathy, that this gift of thine may suffer no harm at their hands, that to his purity they may add wisdom, to his innocence strength to do thy will. Amen.

Then may be said the LORD'S PRAYER.

BENEDICTION

2. Thanksgiving after Childbirth

*The minister shall read the following or other suitable SENTENCES, those marked * if the child be dead;*

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto the name of the Most High. (Ps 92: 1-2)

I will give thanks unto the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell forth thy marvellous works; I

will be glad and exult in thee. (Ps 9:1-2)

I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! (Ps 139:14, 17)

*Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God. (Ps 42:II)

O Father, thou art my eternity.
Not on the clasp of consciousness — on thee
My life depends; and I can well afford
All to forget, so thou remember, Lord.
In thee I rest, in sleep thou dost me fold;
In thee I labour, still in thee, grow old;
And dying, shall I not in thee, my Life, be bold?

George MacDonald

*O may these days of pain,
These wasted-seeming days,
Somewhere reflower again
With scent and savour of praise,
Draw out of memory all bitterness
Of night with thy sun's rays.
A simpler heart than mine
Might have seen beauty dear
When I could see no sign
Of thee, but only fear.
Strengthen me, make me to see
Thy beauty always
In every happening here.

Ivor Gurney

*Then shall the minister give the following or other appropriate ADDRESS, omitting the words marked * if the child be dead:*

At this time, as you have come safely through your confinement, it is right and fitting that you should come in prayer to God, not to seek purification, for there is no cleansing of that which is not unclean, but to offer your thanksgiving and consecrate yourself anew *and your child to his service.

*Then the following PRAYER shall be offered, omitting the words marked * and adding the words marked # if the child be dead:*

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we thank thee for human love and birth. May this experience be as the laying of thy hand in blessing, an insight, through pain and joy, into the mystery and wonder of life. Give courage and strength, wisdom and love *for the holy responsibility of motherhood, and # may disappointment become not bitter, nor loss harsh, but may thy Spirit bless all that is undertaken in the time to come, that in all things thy purposes may be fulfilled and thy Kingdom advanced upon the earth. Amen.

Then may be said the LORD'S PRAYER.

BENEDICTION

3. Marriage

Note: The words enclosed between the sign * are required by law in England and Wales to be spoken by the man and the woman at a marriage in the presence of a registrar. In the presence of an authorised person only, the words enclosed between the sign # may be omitted.

The persons to be married and the congregation being assembled, the man to the right of the woman, a HYMN may be sung, after which the minister shall say:

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. (Ps 127: 1)

We are met together before God and this company to join this man and this woman in marriage according to the rites and customs of our land and this church, to remind them of the sacredness and significance of the marriage bond, and to pray for God's blessing upon them.

It is therefore fitting that we bear in mind that marriage is ordained by God in the laws and necessities of our human life for the comfort and help of his children and for the training of families in godliness of living. It was confirmed by the words of Jesus, and is set forth in the scriptures as honourable to all who enter upon it lawfully, seriously and with true affection; it has been consecrated by the faithful keeping of good men and women in every generation.

Into this bond of union these two persons desire to enter. Therefore if anyone can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together in matrimony, let him now declare it or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

Then, speaking to the persons about to be married, the minister shall say:

I require and charge you both, as in the sight of God and remembering your responsibility to him, that if either of you know of any impediment why you may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, you do now confess it.

Then shall the man repeat after the minister the following declaration:

* 'I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, AB, may not be joined in matrimony to CD.' *

Then shall the woman repeat:

* 'I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, CD, may not be joined in matrimony to AB.' *

Then may the minister say:

Let us pray.

O God, we thank thee for the love with which thou dost bind together kindred souls, and for the institution of marriage, for the tenderness of its ties, the honour of its estate, the sacredness of its obligations, and for its power to guard, hallow and perfect our human love. As it is the desire of these thy children to Eve together in marriage, we pray that they may enter this state in thy faith and with thy blessing. We ask it in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Then shall the minister say to the man, all present standing:

Will you, AB, take this woman to be your lawful wedded wife, to live together in marriage from this day forward, to love and to cherish, and forsaking all other, so long as you both shall live?

The man shall answer:

God helping me, I will.

Then shall the minister say to the woman:

Will you, CD, take this man to be your lawful wedded husband, to live together in marriage from this day forward, to love and to cherish, and forsaking all other, so long as you both shall live?

The woman shall answer:

God helping me, I will.

Where it is so desired, the minister shall ask:

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Then the one responsible shall answer:

I do.

Then the minister, receiving the woman at her father's or friend's hand, shall cause the man

*with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and say after him these words: *# 'I call upon these persons here present to witness that # I, AB, do take thee, CD, to be my # lawful # wedded wife, * from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part.'*

The woman shall likewise say:

** # 'I call upon these persons here present to witness that # I, CD, do take thee, AB, to be my # lawful # wedded husband, * from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part.'*

Here the ring shall be given and the man shall say, and, if rings be exchanged, the woman also:

With this ring I thee wed and pledge my faithful love.

or

With this ring I thee wed, with my body I thee honour, and with my whole mind I make covenant with thee this day.'

Then, the man and woman joining hands, the minister shall say:

Forasmuch as AB and CD have solemnly pledged themselves before God and this company to live faithfully together in marriage, I now pronounce them husband and wife.

And now may God send his blessing upon you, that you steadfastly keep the vows between you made, and dwell henceforth dwetogther in peace and love, strengthening, and helping each other, and having in each other joy that passeth not away.

Then may be sung a HYMN.

Then the following may be read:

Love is patient and kind; love is not envious, boastful nor vain; she does not behave herself unseemly, seeks not her own good, is not easily provoked, keeps no account of her wrongs, rejoices not in iniquity but rejoices in the truth; always charitable, always trustful, always hopeful, always steadfast. Love never fails. (I Cor 13 : 4-8, GT)

Here the minister may give the following or other suitable address:

The love about which Paul speaks is not that attraction between a man and a woman which is perhaps the starting-point of most marriages; nor is it merely the kinship of interests and delights which makes marriage also a true companionship, a friendship. It is deeper than that. It brings mutual understanding and tolerance and sympathy, a respect for personality which seeks neither to overbear nor yet to pamper, is trustful and thinks always the best of the other and wishes the other only the best. Without this love, a marriage can never navigate the rocks and shoals which beset it. With it, marriage becomes beautiful and noble, an enlargement of our humanity, a completion of our nature. For it is indeed a divine — a heavenly — love.

This is a great moment in your lives: this ceremony and all that is said to-day are for your help and guidance. But only you can turn the sacredness of this occasion into a continuance of sanctity and make your matrimony a holy matrimony. If you seek to live together in that love which Paul so eloquently describes, you will find that the many responsibilities you assume, the many duties you undertake, the many trials you undergo, the many sorrows you face, will grow lighter and easier because you share them. On the other hand, every joy you experience, every achievement you gain, every kindness you receive—because you share it—will be increased. At the same time, do not let your thoughts be turned upon yourself alone, but let others benefit from your harmony of purpose and common joy.

You have chosen to come to this church to begin your life together in a religious spirit, and to pray for God's help and blessing. May you ever be mindful of your duties to the religious community, wherever you may be, and may you find in it the strength and hope and fellowship you need, and through it dedicate yourselves anew to the service of God and mankind. May God bless you.

Then shall the minister offer this or other suitable PRAYER:

O God, who beholdest us in all our days, and who rejoicest with us in all our joys, look now with love, we pray thee, on these thy children who profess before thee their vows and give their thanks for the joy of each other. They stand before thee now with a love pure and whole, to ask thy blessing on their life together. Endue them also, we pray thee, with understanding, generosity and true kindness, the one to the other, that their love be not marred or sullied; that should it be so, they may have courage to forgive and forget. When troubles come, may the light of thy wisdom be about them and thy love be their strength and stay. So may they grow into the consciousness and character of thy true children till their whole lives be to thee a thanksgiving and a prayer, and the spirit of Christ be their spirit. Amen.

Then may be said the LORD'S PRAYER.

BENEDICTION

4. Funeral

4a Service in the house

When it is to be followed by a service in a church, cemetery chapel or crematorium; where the house service is immediately followed by cremation or interment, section 4b may be suitably adapted.

The minister shall read one or more of the following SENTENCES:

Peace be to this house and to all who dwell in it. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Mt II:28)

Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him who is the health of my countenance and my God. (Ps 42:11)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (Ps 23)

Then shall the minister offer the following or other suitable PRAYER:

Eternal God, Father of our spirits, we are in need of thy consolation and strength. May thy spirit be in our hearts. Take from us all fear of death, for we are bereaved and have a deep sense of loss. Help us to understand that though there are things temporal which pass away, the things eternal abide for ever; and grant us a deeper sense of thy love, that in all our days we may find thy peace. Amen.

BENEDICTION

4b Service in Church, Cemetery Chapel or Crematorium

The minister shall precede the funeral party into the church, reading one of more of the following passages on the way or from the desk. (In view of the large number of passages here printed, the blank pages for the addition of materials from other sources are grouped together and follow on pages 34, 44, 52 and 56.)

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand for ever. (Is 40:1, 6, 8)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (Ps 23)

Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears, for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. (Ps 39:4,12)

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. Thou turnest man to destruction and sayest, Return, ye children of men. For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth. The days of our years are threescore years and ten, and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. (Ps 90:1-6, 10, 12)

The Lord created man of the earth, and turned him back unto it again. He gave them days by number, and a set time, and gave them authority over the things that are thereon. He endued them with strength proper to them, and made them according to his own image. He put the fear of man upon all flesh, and gave him to have dominion over beasts and fowls. Counsel, and tongue, and eyes, ears and heart, gave he them to understand withal. He filled them with the knowledge of wisdom, and showed them good and evil. He set his eye upon their hearts, to show them the majesty of his works. And they shall praise the name of his holiness, that they may declare the majesty of his works. He added unto them knowledge, and gave them a law of life for a heritage. He made an everlasting covenant with them, and showed them his judgments. Their eyes saw the majesty of his glory, and their ears heard the glory of his voice. And he said unto them, Beware of all unrighteousness; and he gave them commandment, each man concerning his neighbour. (Ecclus I7:1-15)

For neither life nor death concerns a man himself alone; if we live, we live in the sight of the Lord, and if we die, we die in the sight of the Lord; whether we live or die, therefore, we are his. (Rom 14:8, GT)

The glories of our blood and state
Are shadows, not substantial things;
There is no armour against fate;
Death lays his icy hand on kings;
Sceptre and crown
Must tumble down,
And in the dust be equal made
With the poor crooked scythe and spade.

James Shirley

As is the life of the leaves, so is that of men. The wind scatters the leaves to the ground; the vigorous forest puts forth others, and they grow in the spring-season. Soon one generation of men comes and another ceases.

Homer

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends' or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee.

John Donne

When a man's life is over, it remains true that he has lived; it remains true that he has been one sort of man and not another. In the infinite mosaic of history that bit has its unfading colour and its perpetual function and effect. A man who understands himself under the form of eternity knows the quality that eternally belongs to him, and knows that he cannot wholly die, even if he would; for when the movement of his life is over, the truth of his life remains. The fact of him is part forever in the infinite context of existence.

George Santayana

Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail,
Or knock the breast, no weakness, no contempt,
Dispraise, or blame — nothing but well and fair,
And what may quiet us in a death so noble.

John Milton

Too soon, too soon comes Death to show
We love more deeply than we know!
The rain, that fell upon the height
Too gently to be called delight,
Within the dark vale reappears
As a wild cataract of tears;
And love in life should strive to see
Sometimes what love in death would be!

Coventry Patmore

Giver of sleep...
Now am I to thy chamber come,
Where flesh and heart each seek their home;
Thy nightlygift again I crave,
My wearied frame repose would have.

The light is out;
Down with unfearing heart I lie,
And wait sleep's healing mystery.

Thomas Toke Lynch

A late lark twitters from the quiet skies;
And from the west,
Where the sun, his day's work ended,
Lingers as in content,
There falls on the old, grey city
An influence luminous and serene, A shining peace.

The smoke ascends
In a rosy-and-golden haze. The spires
Shine and are changed.
In the valley Shadows rise.
The lark sings on. The sun,
Closing his benediction,

Sinks, and the darkening air
Thrills with a sense of the triumphing night—
Night with her train of stars
And her great gift of sleep.

So be my passing !
My task accomphsh'd and the long day done,
My wages taken, and in my heart
Some late lark singing,
Let me be gathered to the quiet west,
The sundown splendid and serene,
Death.

William Ernest Henley

God gives us love. Something to love
He lends us; but when Love has grown
To ripeness, that on which it throve
Falls off, and Love is left alone.

Alfred Tennyson

Man is a sacred city, built of marvellous earth.
Life was lived nobly here to give this body birth.
Something was in this brain and in this eager hand.

Death is so dumb and blind. Death cannot understand.

Death drifts the brain with dust
and soils the young limb's glory.
Death makes women a dream
and men a traveller's story,
Death drives the lovely soul to wander under the sky.
Death opens unknown doors. It is most grand to die.

John Masefield

It is strange how pagan many of us are in our beliefs. True, the funeral libations have made way for comfortable bakemeats; still, to the large majority, death is Pluto, king of the dark Unknown, whence no traveller returns, rather than Azrael, brother and friend, lord of this mansion of life. Strange how men shun him as he waits in the shadows, watching our puny straining after immortality, sending his comrade sleep to prepare us for himself. When the hour strikes he comes — very gently — very tenderly, if we will but have it so — folds the tired hands together, takes the wayworn feet in his broad strong palm; and lifting us in his wonderful arms he bears us swiftly down the valley and across the waters of remembrance.

Michael Fairless

Whither shall I go from thy spirit, or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there. If I make my bed in the grave, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me, even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee. The darkness and the light are both alike to thee. (Ps 139:7-12)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps 27: 1)

He giveth power to the faint, and to him that hath no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (IS 40:29-31)

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart. (Ps 27:14)

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God has revealed them to us through his spirit; for the spirit fathoms all things, even the deep things of God. (I Cor 2:9-10, GT)

Therefore we lose not heart; for though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are

seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Cor 4:16-18, GT)

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. Now are we sons of God, and it doth yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like unto him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. (I Jn 3:1-3, 14)

What, then, shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Who shall separate us from the love of God? Shall tribulation or anguish, persecution or famine, poverty, peril or the sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers above, nor powers beneath, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is revealed in Christ Jesus, our Lord. (Rom 8:31, 35, 37-39, GT)

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and verily no torment shall touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seem to die, and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction. But they are in peace. For though they were punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. And having borne a little chastening, they shall be greatly rewarded, for God proved them, and found them worthy of himself. (Wis 3:1-3, GT)

Then said he, 'I am going to my Father's, and though with great difficulty I am got hither, yet now I do not repent me of all the trouble I have been at to arrive where I am. My sword I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage, and my courage and skill to him that can get it. My marks and scars I carry with me, to be witness for me that I have fought his battles who now will be my reward.' So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.

John Bunyan

They that love beyond the world cannot be separated by it. Death cannot kill what never dies. Nor can spirits ever be divided that love and live in the same divine principle, the root and record of their friendship. If absence be not death, neither is it theirs. Death is but crossing the world, as friends do the seas; they live in one another still. For they must needs be present, that love and live in that which is omni-present. In this divine glass, they see face to face; their converse is free, as well as pure. This is the comfort of friends, that though they may be said to die, yet their friendship and society are, in the best sense, ever present because immortal.

William Penn

And yet, dear heart! remembering thee, Am I not richer than of old?
Safe in thy immortality,

What change can reach the wealth I hold?
What chance can mar the pearl and gold
Thy love hash left in trust for me?
And while in life's long afternoon,
Where cool and long the shadows grow,
I walk to meet the night that soon
Shall shape and shadow overflow,
I cannot feel that thou art far,
Since near at need the angels are;
And when the sunset gates unbar,
Shall I not see thee waiting stand
And, white against the evening star,
The welcome of thy beckoning hand?

John Greenleaf Whittier

Yet love will dream, and faith will trust,
(Since he who knows our need is just)
That somehow, somewhere, meet we must.
Alas for him who never sees
The stars shine through his cypress trees;
Who hopeless lays his dead away,
Nor looks to see the breaking day
Across the mournful marble play!
Who hash not learned in hours of faith
The truth to flesh and sense unknown,
That life is ever lord of death,
And love can never lose its own.

John Greenleaf Whittier

On the day when death will knock at thy door what wilt thou offer to him?

Oh, I will set before my guest the full vessel of my life — I never let him go with empty hands. All the sweet vintage of all my autumn days and summer nights; all the earnings and gleanings of my busy life will I place before him at the close of my days, when death will knock at my door.

I have got my leave... At this time of parting, wish me well, my friends. Though to-morrow be wrapped in mystery I have no fear in my mind. I was not aware of the moment when I first crossed the threshold of this life. What was the power that made me open out into this vast mystery like a bud in the forest at midnight? When in the morning I looked upon the light I felt in a moment that I was no stranger in this world, that the inscrutable without name or form had taken me in its arms in the form of my own mother. Even so, in death, the same unknown will appear as ever known to me, and because I love this life I know I shall love death as well. The child cries out when from the rightbreast the mother takes it away, in the

very next moment to find in the left one its consolations...

In one salutation to the Eternal Goodness I go hence. Like a flock of homesick cranes flying day and night back to their mountain nests let all my life take its voyage to the eternal home in one salutation to the Eternal Goodness.

Rabindranath Tagore

Death being the way and condition of life, we cannot love to live if we cannot bear to die. I have often wondered at the unaccountableness of man in this, among other things; that though he loves changes so well, he should care so little here or think of his last, great, and best change too, if he pleases. The truest end of life is to know the life that never ends. He that lives to live ever, never fears dying. Nor can the means be terrible to him that heartily believes the end. For though death be a dark passage, it leads to immortality, and that's recompense enough for suffering of it.

William Penn

Sunset and evening star, and one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea;
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark!,br /> And may there be no sadness of
farewell
When I embark;
For though from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have cross the bar.

Alfred Tennyson

The more I live, the more I love this lovely world, feel more its Author in each little thing, in all that is great. But I feel my immortality the more. In childhood the consciousness of immortal life buds forth feeble, though full of promise. In the man it unfolds its fragrant petals, its most celestial flower, to mature its seed throughout eternity. *Theodore Parker*

I have lived, I have laboured, and I have loved. To love and to labour is the sum of living. Now the day is far spent, and the night is at hand, and the time shall draweth nigh when a

man rest from his labours. But still shall be love, and he shall enter into rest through him who is light and life and love.

Thomas More

O friends that remain, ye will keep as much of me as ye are able; kind thoughts of me; recollections of our mutual joys and sufferings; recollections of the pardon we gave each other. You will love all whom I have loved, and me in them.

Leigh Hunt

How can I cease to pray for thee? Somewhere
In God's great universe thou art to-day.
Can he not reach thee with his tender care?
Can he not hear me when for thee I pray?

What matters it to him who holds within
The hollow of his hands all worlds, all space,
That thou art done with earthly pain and sin?
Somewhere within his ken thou hast a place.
Somewhere thou livest and hast need of him;
Somewhere thy soul sees higher heights to climb:
And somewhere still there must be valleys dim
That thou must pass to reach the hills sublime.

Then all the more, e'en if thou canst not hear
Poor human words of blessing, will I pray,
O true, brave heart! God bless thee, whereso'er
In God's great universe thou art to-day !

Mrs JCR Dorr

And so beside the silent sea
I wait the muffled oar;
No harm from him can come to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where his islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond his love and care.

John Greenleaf Whittier

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart-throbs.
He most lives Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.
Life's but a means unto an end; that end
Beginning, mean and end to all things — God.

PJ Bailey

Oh may I join the choir invisible
Of those immortal dead who live again
In minds made better by their presence; live
In pulses stirred to generosity,
In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn
Of miserable aims that end in self,
In thoughts sublime that pierce the night like stars,
And with their mild persistence urge men's minds To vaster issues.
So to live is heaven. To make undying music in the world,
Breathing as beautiful order, that controls
With growing sway the life of man.
This is life to come,
Which martyred men have made more glorious
For us who strive to follow. May I reach
That purest heaven; be to other souls
The cup of strength in some great agony;
Enkindle generous ardour; feed pure love;
Beget the smiles that have no cruelty;
Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,
And in diffusion ever more intense.
So shall I join the choir invisible,
Whose music is the gladness of the world.

George Eliot

On the death of a CHILD:

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Whosoever shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. Even so it is not the will of your Father in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. (Mt 18:1-2, 4, 10, 4)

And shall heaven have no children in it? Must none but grey hairs pass through its gates? Or shall not, rather, glad, gleesome children with flowing hair and merry eyes go with laughter through its doorways, to meet their angels who do always behold the face of their Father? Let us not forget that there are two sides to dying — the earth side and the heaven side. The stars that go out when morning comes do not stop shining; only some other eyes in some other land are made glad by them. *MJ Savage*

My darling boy, so early snatched away still
From arms stiseeking thee in empty air, That thou shouldst come to me I do not pray, Lest, by thy coming, heaven should be less fair.

Stay, rather, in perennial flower of youth,
Such as the Master, looking on, must love; And send to me the spirit of the truth,
To teach me of the wisdom from above.

Beckon to guide my thoughts, as stumblingly
They seek the kingdom of the undefiled;
And meet me at its gateway with the key,
The unstained spirit of a little child.

FG Peabody

It is told of Rabbi Meir that during his absence from home two of his sons died. Their mother, hiding her grief, awaited the father's return, and then said to him: 'My husband, some time since, two jewels of in-estimable value were placed with me for safe keeping.

He who left them with me called to-day, and I delivered them into his hands.'

'That is right,' said the Rabbi approvingly, 'we must always return cheerfully and faithfully all that is placed in our care.' Shortly after this, the Rabbi asked for his sons; and the mother, taking him by the hand, let him gently to the chamber of death. Meir gazed upon his sons, and realizing the truth, wept bitterly.

'Weep not, beloved husband,' his noble wife. 'Didst thou not say to me, we must return cheerfully, when it is called for, all that has been placed in our care? God gave us these jewels. He left them with us for a time, and we gloried in their possession; but now he calls for his own, we should not repine.'

Anon

On the death of a YOUNG PERSON: of

A righteous man, though he die before his time, shall be at rest. For honourable old age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor is its measure given by number of years; but understanding is grey hairs unto men, and an unspotted life is ripe old age. Being found well-pleasing unto God he was beloved of him; being made perfect in a little while, he fulfilled long years; for his soul was pleasing unto the Lord. Thus the righteous that are dead shall condemn the ungodly that are living; and youth that is soon perfected the many years and old age of the unrighteous. (Wis 4:7-10, 13-14, 16)

On the death of an OLD PERSON:

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age. The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness. (Ps 92:13-14, Pr 16:31)

They cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto the haven where they would be. (Ps 107:28-30, GT)

How beautiful a thing is judgment for grey hairs, and for elders to know counsel. How beautiful is the wisdom of old men, and thought and counsel to men that are in honour. Much experience is the crown of old men; and their glorying is the fear of the Lord. (Ecclus 25:4-6)

On the death a of WOMAN:

Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies? The heart of her husband trusteth in her, and he shall have no lack of gain. She doeth him good and not evil all the days of her life, She girdeth her loins with strength, and maketh strong her arms. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laugheth at the time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children rise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her, saying: Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates. (Pr 31:10-12, 17, 20, 23, 25-31, GT)

On the death of a TEACHER:

Because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought Out, and set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. (Ec 12:9-11, 13-14)

On the death of a PHYSICIAN:

Honour a physician with the honour due unto him, for the Lord hath created him. For of the Most High cometh healing. The skill of the physician shall lift up his head, and in the sight of great men he shall be in admiration. The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth, and he hath given men skill, that he might be known in his marvellous works. Then give place to the physician, for the Lord hath created him. (Ecclus 38:1-4, 6, 12)

On the death of a MINISTER:

My covenant with him was of life and peace; and I gavethem to him that he might fear, and he feared me, and stood in awe of my name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and uprightness, and did turn many away from iniquity. For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and men should seek direction at his mouth, for he is a messenger of the Lord of Hosts. (Mal 2:5-7, GT)

This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things concerning Jesus. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, and much people was added unto the Lord. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace. (Acts 18:25, 11:24; Dan12:3; I Pet 5:4; Ps 37:37)

On the death of a CRAFTSMAN:

So every artificer and workmaster, that laboureth night and day, and they that cut and grave seals, and are diligent to make great variety; they give their minds to make the likeness true,

and are wakeful to finish their work. The smith also sitting by the anvil, and considering the unwrought iron; his eyes are upon the pattern of the thing that he maketh; he setteth his mind to finish his work, and is diligent to polish it perfectly. So doth the potter sitting at his work, and turning the wheel about with his feet, who is always carefully set at his work; he applieth himself to finish the glazing, and is diligent to make clean the furnace. All these trust to their hands and every one is wise in his work. Without these a city cannot be inhabited, and men shall not dwell nor go up and down therein. They will maintain the fabric of the world, and the handywork of their craft is their prayer. (Ecclus 3 8:27-34)

Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us. The Lord hath wrought in them great glory, even his mighty power from the beginning. Such as did rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and declaring prophecies; leaders of the people by their counsels, men of learning for the people by their knowledge, wise and eloquent in their instructions; such as sought out musical tunes, and uttered verses in writing; rich men furnished with ability, living peaceably in their habitations. All these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times. There be of them that have left a name behind them to declare their praises. And some there be which have no memorial, who are perished as though they had never been. But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten. Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth for evermore. (Ecclus 44:1-9, 11, 15, GT)

They gave themselves to the commonwealth, and received, each for his own memory, praise that shall never die, and with it the grandest of sepulchres, not that in which their mortal bones are laid, but a home in the minds of men. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of famous men; and their story is not graven only on stone over their native earth, but lives far away, without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other men's lives. *Thucydides*

Then shall the King say: Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in, naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying; Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them; Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. (Mt 25:34-40)

Well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou halt been faithful over a few things, I Will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. (Mt 25:23, 24:45-46)

The memorial of virtue is immortal, because it is known with God, and with men. When it is present, men take example at it, and when it is gone, they desire it. It weareth a crown, and triumpheth forever, having gotten the victory, striving for undefiled rewards. (Wis 4:1-2)

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. (PS 15:1-2)

The time of my departure is come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing. The Lord will I deliver me from every evil will evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. (2 Tim 4:6-7, A, GT)

Then a HYMN may be sung.

The following hymns in Hymns of Worship are suggested; the number of each hymn in Hymns of Worship Revised follows in brackets: 313 (285), 410 (362), 419 (366), 420 (380), 427 (---), 442 (375), 456 (415), 460 (417), 461 (419), 467, (---), 469, (---), 471, (422), 472 (416), 473 (418), 475 (---), 605 (119).

Then the minister may give this or other suitable ADDRESS:

We are met here to say farewell to a dear one. Whether the life has been long or short, whether death has come suddenly and unexpectedly or after illness and suffering and hopeless struggle, our grief is equally deep and poignant. It is natural that we should mourn those whom death has taken from us, whose daily ties and companionship it has irrevocably severed. Our sorrow is the outcome of our love, and it is often better for us to let it outflow than to try to suppress it. But we must guard against the bitterness which perverts and sullies genuine grief. Our hearts should rather be filled with thankfulness for all that our beloved have meant for us, for the privilege and joy of having known them and shared their life and love here on earth. We have been enriched by their affection and our experience has been deepened by our fellowship with them in joys, hopes, struggles and disappointments. Moreover, death is not the end; our hearts tell us so in tones that cannot be mistaken. They live on in us and their words and deeds shine through US. And we believe, too, that they have entered new realms, unknown, unimaginable to us, because 'the love of God is broader than the measures of man's mind,' and all souls are his to eternity. Therefore we have no fear, either for our loved one or for ourselves, for we are all children of the same heritage. Meanwhile, there are tasks still to be done; there is still service to be given to the Kingdom of God, and we each one of us have our part to fulfil in God's eternal purposes. Let us seek all the more earnestly to understand what we are called upon to accomplish, and in trust and

confidence to continue our endeavours. And may God's blessing be with us and remain with us

Then the minister may offer some of the following or other PRAYERS:

O God, our Father, who art the consolation of the sorrowing and the comfort of the sad, look in pity and mercy upon thy children, this bereaved family, whose joy has been turned into mourning, whose happiness has become distress. In all affliction thou art our refuge our strength and our stay. Help them to have such trust in thee that their grief may have no bitterness nor their sorrow turn to despair. As they have walked through the valley of the shadow of death, be thou with them to lead them to tranquillity of heart and the assurance that thy goodness and mercy shall follow them all days of their life. Amen.

Eternal God, in whose comforting and keeping there is shelter from the storm, and in whose mercy and pity there is shadow from the heat of life, hear now our prayer, we pray thee, for those who are mourning their dead. Send thy pity to lighten their darkness, and the sense of thy presence and sympathy to fill their loneliness. Touch their wounds with thy hands of healing and help them to be still. Give them strength to do and to bear thy perfect will. Soon may the heavens open where they are darkened now, and peace and confidence enter the silent home and its saddened hearts. Help us more and more to feel and realize that in thy holy care are all thy children, and that the Eternal God is their refuge and home in this and all worlds. Unto thee be praise and glory for ever. Amen.

O Father of mercy and compassion, we pray thee not to leave us to ourselves; let us not be at the mercy of uncontrolled sorrow, but gird up our loins afresh for the duties of higher and nobler aspirations. May we turn once more to our social duties and to all our domestic and social obligations, with hearts more devoted to thy service. May we learn to do all the good within our reach, and to show more love and kindness and sympathy towards our fellow-men than we have ever shown before, so that day by day we may rise above the pain and anguish of this world. And while we pray thus for ourselves, O Father of all, let thy tender compassion reach the hearts of all those who are now in sorrow like our own. Let us learn even in our worst time of grief and adversity to praise and magnify thy holy name. Amen.

Eternal God, who in the time of our shadow and darkness art our only true and lasting light, look upon us with thy constant mercy, and give us the spirit of understanding and courage. When our eyes no longer behold those whom we love, and we listen in vain for the footsteps of those who have passed beyond our sight, enable us to put our faith in thee. When our hearts fail us, and we sigh for that which cannot be, and no traveller comes back from that bourne, and there is none to comfort us, then grant us still to trust in thee, and in thine everlasting goodness. Amen.

Eternal God, who art the consolation of all who are distressed, teach us that in all the troubles of our lives we may find confidence in the knowledge of thy goodness and loving-kindness. So, when the storms of life pass over us, may they not shake the peace of God which is within us. Whatever this life may bring us, grant that it may never take from us the faith that thou art our Father, and that neither life nor death can separate us from thy care. Amen.

O Thou who callest us of thine infinite goodness into the fellowship of kindred souls, in which the fruit of the spirit is love, joy and peace, we thank thee for the gifts of human affection, for our loved ones who are with us in our earthly home and for the common joys of our life together. We bless thee for all who love us and whom we love, the friends whose presence is a happiness and help to us. And we bless thee for those dear to us, who are no longer with us here, but have passed to the unseen world. Unite us with them in the bonds of a pure, undying affection, an abiding communion, beyond the power of death, and may we ever feel that we are all one family, one company of friends and brethren, on earth and in heaven. Amen.

Eternal God, in whom the spirits of just men do rest in peace from their labours; we bless and praise thy holy name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, and especially for those most dear to us, of whom we have good hope that they are fallen asleep in peace with thee; and we beseech thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples that even here we may be united with them in fellowship of spirit, and that finally we may be gathered together with them into the bosom of thy love. Amen.

Grant unto us, eternal God, of thy good Spirit, that quiet heart and that patient lowliness to which thy comforting Spirit comes, that we, being humble towards thee and loving toward one another, may have our hearts prepared for that peace which passeth understanding, which if we have, the storms of life can hurt us but little and the cares of life vex us not at all, and in the presence of which death shall lose its sting and the grave its terror. May we, in calm joy, walk all the days of our appointed time, until our great change shall come. Amen.

O God, who givest quiet after striving, rest after weariness and release after suffering, we thank thee for the peace which has come at last to the soul which came forth from thee. We thank thee for other lives in which we have witnessed patience, courage and faith, lifted above dull complaining into serenity and content. Help us to that faith which uses the conditions and vicissitudes of life for nobler living. If bodily infirmity shall strike us or the weakness of age creep upon us and we can no longer take our share of the world's work but watch and wait for our appointed end, instil in us a cheerful patience and a calm forbearance, and teach us that they also serve who only stand and wait if love and good will are in their hearts. Amen.

In the case of a CHILD:

O God our Father, comfort, we pray thee, the deep anguish of those from whom death has taken this child. May their disappointed hopes and shattered expectations not fester within them, but let the assurance of thy love and pity cleanse their hearts from bitterness and vain regret, that they may learn thankfulness for the great gift granted for a little while to them, for the love and tenderness which this child called forth in them. Help them to see more deeply into the life of the spirit, to understand more fully those things which are eternal and can never pass away. Grant the child like heart, innocent, trustful, loving, that can find the Kingdom of God within. So may even sorrow become blessing, drawing out a wider sympathy and deeper love for others, a more eager consecration of life to the fulfilment of thy purpose, and that peace which passes all understanding. Amen.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy great mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

If the service is held in a crematorium, the committal proceeds immediately as in section 4c, ending with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction; otherwise the service concludes before committal with:

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

4c Committal at Interment or Cremation

The minister shall say:

He whom ye love is not here: he is with God.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. (Ps 23:4)

None of us liveth unto himself, and none dieth unto himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord, or whether we die, we die unto the Lord. Whether we live therefore, or die, we

are the Lord's. (Rom 14:7-8)

With thee, O God, is the fountain of life, and in thy light shall we see light. (Ps 36:9)

We commend unto the merciful keeping of Eternal God the soul of the departed, and commit his body to the earth (or, to the purifying fire), in the sure and certain hope that as in this world he did partake of life eternal, so now he has gone into the world of light (or, been made one with God).

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours, and their works do follow them. (Rev 14:13)

Unto thy servant grant eternal peace, O Lord. May light perpetual shine upon him.

The shall the minister offer the following or other PRAYERS:

We thank thee for him whose love and companionship we have known in this life, and who has gone from our midst. Help us to know that all things fulfil thy purposes and even the storm and the fire and the agony of pain and the sorrows of death all minister to thy great ends, are part of the mysteries of the wisdom, and contain wonders of healing as well as of hurt to them that love thee. We thank thee especially for those who have beheld the light behind the shadow, who have endured as seeing the invisible. We bless thee for thy gifts and help from day to day in common ways, for those who by their sympathy or quiet, loving spirit make hard things easier, for those who renew our courage when our faith falters or our hope declines. So may we return to our daily duties with hearts refreshed and with strength renewed and increased, that out of our cares and sorrows we may learn wisdom and gentleness and love. Amen.

BENEDICTION

4d Committal at Scattering or Interment of Ashes

At the place of committal the minister shall say:

For we have here no continuing city, but we seek one to come. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (Heb 13:14; 2 Cor 5:1)

We know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. For now we see through a glass, darkly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known. (I Cor 13:10, 12)

As the life of the spirit no longer requires the body we commit these ashes to the earth (or, we scatter these ashes), in the sure knowledge that his life is one with the eternal and his works abide on earth, that underneath are the everlasting arms.

Grant eternal peace unto thy servant, O Lord, and let thine everlasting light shine upon *him*.

Then shall the minister offer the following or other PRAYERS:

O God, out of thy heart of love came forth thy child. Unto thy love we now return thy gift, for though our bodies go again to the earth from whence they sprang, our souls are ever in thy hand. We bless thee for all the help thou givest us on our way; for all that thou revealest to us concerning ourselves, in times of bitterness and joy; for the secrets of strength or weakness thou hast shown us; for the encouragements we receive from others; for words and deeds of sympathy and goodwill; for examples of holier living in every age and among various ways of men; for the witness of courage and loyalty in difficulty, hardship and death; for the spirit of truth and righteousness for ever manifesting itself in the obscure and lowly as well as in prophets and saints. Amen.

BENEDICTION

5. Visiting the Sick

It is not in our tradition for formal orders of service to be used in visiting the sick, but the following short READINGS and PRAYERS may be helpful:

Peace be to this house and to all who dwell in it.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Ps 46:1)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (Ps 23)

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard? the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary; there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint. (Is 40:28-31)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever, for the Lord is God, an everlasting rock. (Is 26:3-4, GT)

To reach the region of light, we must pass through the clouds. Is it not true that my life with all its limitations touches at many points the life of the World Beautiful? Everything has its wonders, even darkness and silence, and I learn, whatever state I may be in, therein to be content. Sometimes, it is true, a sense of isolation enfolds me like a cold mist as I sit alone and wait at life's shut gate. Beyond there is light and music and sweet companionship. . . . Silence sits immense upon my soul. Then comes hope with a smile and whispers, 'There is joy in self-forgetfulness.' So I try to make the light in others' eyes my sun, the music in others' ears my sympathy, the smile on others' lips my happiness. *Helen Keller*

One or both of the following or other PRAYERS may be offered:

O Thou who art the Soul of goodness in things evil, teach us how to suffer and be strong. Help us to cherish the Spirit which brings good out of evil, and prevents adversities and disappointments from embittering the heart and spoiling life. Comfort us with a deep sense of thy goodness in all our various experience, and keep us in strength and truth, simplicity and serenity of spirit to the end of our days. Amen.

Eternal God, who art evermore our Father, to thee we pray that the strength of thy Holy Spirit may be given to sustain and comfort us in our suffering and weakness. Let thy peace which passeth all understanding be upon us, that through the skill and care of others and our own confidence and serenity thy loving-kindness and tender mercy may uphold and restore us.

Deliver us, then, from all fear and depression and from all that clouds our vision of thee. We remember thy goodness, and the satisfaction of our wants, our daily bread and all the blessings of mind and heart, the love of friends and of those most near and dear to us. We thank thee for all thou hast already given us and for our hope in thee. So we commit ourselves into thy hands, knowing that whilst we are in thy care no evil thing can come nigh us. Hold us and keep us near thee in all our thoughts and meditation, in all our desire and

hope and prayer this day and in all the days of our life. Amen.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy great mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

Then may follow the LORD'S PRAYER and a BENEDICTION.

6. Welcoming into Membership of a Congregation

Preferably at some appropriate point in the ordinary service, the minister shall say one or more of the following SENTENCES:

Remember also thy Creator in the days of thy youth, or ever the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them. (EC 12: 1)

Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. Lead me in thy truth and teach me; for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. (Ps 25:1, 5)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Mt 5:3-10)

My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments, for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck; write them upon the tablet of thine heart. So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. (Pr 3:1-4)

If thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, then shalt thou find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. (Dt 4:29)

Then the following PRAYER shall be said:

O God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee and worthily magnify thy holy name, in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Then shall the minister give this or some other suitable ADDRESS:

My friends, into the fellowship of this congregation we would now welcome you. Acknowledging the divine spirit within you, you desire to pledge yourselves to the pursuit of all that is true, just, honourable, pure, lovely and of good report. This is a great challenge and a solemn call, and in order the better to fulfil it you realize the value and inspiration of the society and common worship of those likewise committed to that way of life, and offer your loyalty to our cause. The church is the sole institution dedicated to this holy purpose, and through it the Kingdom of God is best served. Our household of faith does not demand any confession of belief from either minister or member, but encourages each to seek truth according to the light that is within and to follow good in the spirit that was in Jesus Christ.

In freedom and resolve, therefore, we—ourselves and this congregation — undertake to help one another in all ways possible in our common task. We pray for God's blessing that our hearts may not weary nor our hands grow slack in worship and in work.

Then shall the minister ask:

Do you, then, desire to dedicate yourselves to the life of the Spirit, to the high calling of God in divine son-ship and human brotherhood, and to that end, do you desire to join this fellowship, pledging yourselves to it with love and fidelity, and through it serving all mankind?

Then those who have come forward shall answer:

We do.

The minister shall say:

Then may God aid all your endeavours. I bid you welcome into our household of faith; may you find in it the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy and peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, and may the blessing of God keep us in the unity of the spirit and in the bond of peace.

Then shall the minister extend the right hand of fellowship to each in turn, presenting any token of membership which it may be the custom of the congregation to give.

And, if desired, the chairman of the congregation shall say:

In the name of this congregation I welcome you into our fellowship.

Then the minister shall offer one of these or other similar PRAYERS:

Eternal and ever-blessed God, who hast made us the heirs of many ages and set us in the midst of many brethren, deepen our gratitude for thy blessings as we have received them from our fathers, our benefactors and our friends. May we never forget the kindness that surrounds us in the present, nor be careless of the treasures we inherit from the past, but having a lively sense of our debt to the brethren, and a loving remembrance of departed generations, may we reverently carry forward the work of the ages, and daily endeavour, as faithful stewards, to enrich the same by a good conversation and a godly life. We thank thee for the fellowship of the living, with whom we share thy mercies and adore thy name; for partners in duty; for comrades in the good fight; for all who feel with our joys and our sorrows; and especially for those by whom we are beloved and whom we love. We also bless thy holy name for the labours of the men of old, for the succession of prophets, apostles, martyrs, and holy men continued even to this day, for leaders and commanders of the people, who have made themselves great by becoming the servants of all; and for the nameless multitude of the loyal and devoted, who have fallen asleep in their generations, leaving their memorial with thee. Make us of one heart, we beseech thee, with all these thy worshippers, of one purpose with all these thy servants, of one communion all with these thy saints, and of one will with thine.
Amen.

We bring to thee our grateful hearts, O God, for our great heritage of faith. In living it is our strength and guide; in sorrow it is our comfort; in discouragement it is our hope; by it our joy is deepened; in fellowship it is our closest bond. May we be reverent in our receiving of the

gift of faith. May we strive constantly to use it in thy service. Teach us to go forward on our way, upheld by our fellowship with thee. Keep us mindful that thou hast called us to share thy purpose of good will. When courage is needed, may we play our part bravely. When steadiness is called for, may we stand firm and serene. When work needs to be done, may we do our share in faithfulness. When any child of thine turns to us in need, may we not lack sympathy and understanding which are thy gifts, nor miss the way of true kindness and service which thou wouldst have us take. In all the common duties of life may we constantly seek thy guidance and be bound together in a sustaining fellowship with all men who would do thy will. May the day soon come when all thy children shall fashion their lives in a mighty and noble brotherhood. Amen.

(Mary Ely Lyman, ed Stephen Fritchman)

Then may be said the LORD'S PRAYER, concluding with:

*God be in my head,
And in my understanding; God be in my eyes,
And in my looking; God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking; God be in my heart,
And in my thinking; God be at mine end,
And at my departing.*

7. Communion

7a First Order

The minister, standing by the table, shall say:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men. (Lk 2:14)

O God, thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth through all generations. (Ps 145:13)

The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying; This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. (I Cor 11:23-2,5)

If desired, there may follow a few moments of silent prayer or meditation with PRAYER by the minister, as follows:

Let us thank God in silence for the life and person of Jesus Christ, and for all who through their self-giving belong to the communion of saints.

O God of righteousness and truth, we thank thee for all thy faithful servants who have lived on earth as doers of thy will, as teachers of thy truth, as messengers of thy loving-kindness. We thank thee for the martyr's courage, the prophet's word of fire, for the noble virtues of thy heroes and saints, and for all the gifts of inspiration and wisdom, skill and power, which have been bestowed on chosen servants of thine, to enrich and bless the world. Above all we thank thee for the teaching and example of thy Son, Jesus Christ. May the spirit of humility and devotion which filled his soul be manifest in us, that we may be conformed to the image of his obedience, his patience, and his faith. Amen.

LORDS PRAYER

Then:

Jesus said: The Lord our God is one Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second like unto it is this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these; on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. If ye know these things, blessed are ye if ye do them. (Mt 22:37-40; Jn 13:17)

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name.

Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise, that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found. Amen.

Then may follow this or other short address:

In this service of the Lord's supper we remember our brother, Jesus, his life and love and unselfishness and power, his teaching and all that he has meant for mankind.

For within his heart of love
All the soul of man did move,
God had his abode.

Our minds go back to the last days of his life and the last meal with his disciples, his betrayal, his trial and condemnation and his sufferings and death.

For that great heart of Bethlehem,
He died for men he never knew.

Through this eucharistic rite we give to God our heartfelt and humble thanks for all his blessings to us and to all men, especially for his great revelation through Jesus to lighten the world.

We thank thee for the star that rose
O'er old Judea bright,
And that its deathless ray still shines
To fill our souls with light.

And we re-dedicate ourselves in his spirit. We seek, too, in this communion to enter into fellowship with our Master and with all who have been faithful to his spirit.

The faithful men of every land
Who Christ's own rule obey,
The holy dead of every time,
The Church of Christ are they.

And finally we see the hand of God in all things around us, in the heavens above and on the earth beneath, and even in those things which are often thought to be little and of small account.

We pray no more, made lowly wise,
For miracle or sign,
Anoint our eyes to see within
The common the divine.

In this service, then, we pray that by the grace of God and the spirit of Jesus the world through us may be brought nearer to the Kingdom of God.

Spirit of Jesus, still speed on,
Speed on thy conquering way,
Till every heart the Father own,
And all his will obey.

Then shall the minister partake of the bread and the wine and present them either through the servers or direct to the people with these words:

Jesus said: 'Take this; this is my body.' In fellowship with God and one another, let us take and eat this bread in remembrance of him.

And:

Jesus said: 'This is the new testament of my blood.' In fellowship with God and one another, let us take this cup in remembrance of him.

When all have partaken, there shall follow a few moments of silent meditation. Then shall the minister offer the following

PRAYERS:

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do thy will.

O thou, who art the light of the minds that know thee, the strength of the wills that serve thee, the joy of the hearts that love thee, grant us so to know thee that we may truly love thee, and so to love thee that we may fully serve thee, to the honour and glory of thy holy name. Amen.

Then all may say the GENERAL THANKSGIVING:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for thine inestimable love revealed in Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days. Amen.

Or:

O thou, who art the source of all existence and the light of all our being, we remember with joy and awe that the world is thy creation, and that life is thy gift. Uplift our thoughts from the littleness of our own works to the greatness, the majesty and the wonder of thine. Amen.

BENEDICTION:

Now unto the God of grace, for the might of his Spirit and the love of Christ, be glory in the church throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

7b Second Order

The minister, standing by the table shall say:

The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said; Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying: This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. (I Cor 11:23-25)

Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath showed thee, O man, what is good, and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Mic 6:6-8)

The minister shall then offer the following PRAYER:

O God, our heavenly Father, we bless thee that thou hast set us in the line of many good and faithful men. We remember all who from the beginning of the world have wrought righteousness and walked with thee, all whose lives have been beautiful with the beauty of Christ. Let the cloud of witnesses be to us an example of godly life, and by faith, hope and love may we be united with them and with thee now and for evermore.

LORDS PRAYER

Then, taking up the plate of unbroken bread, the minister shall break it and say:

For that we are all partakers of the bread of life and children of the Most High, I break this bread as a sign and symbol of Jesus and all who have given their uttermost service to their fellows, and as a pledge of our resolve to bear one another's burdens in the goodwill of a perfect charity.

Likewise, taking up the cup, he shall say:

For that we are all made of one blood to dwell upon all the face of the earth, I raise this cup as a sign and symbol of Jesus and of all who have witnessed to the unity of mankind, and as a pledge of our solemn promise freely as we have received, freely to give.

Then shall follow a few moments of silent meditation and prayer, ending with the words:

Glory to God on high and on earth peace, goodwill towards men. We thank thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, O Lord God, Father Eternal.

Then shall the minister recite the GREAT COMMANDMENTS:

Jesus said: The Lord our God is one Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second like unto it is this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself There is none other commandment greater than these; on these two commandments hang all law and the prophets. If ye know these things, blessed are ye if ye do them. (Mt 22:37-40, In 13:17)

BENEDICTION

8. Installation of a Minister

HYMN

Then shall be said one or more of the following SENTENCES:

Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest dwell to approach unto thee, that he may in thy courts. (Ps 65:4)

Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant, even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. (Mt 20 27-28)

Then said he: Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. (Heb 10:9)

Then the following PRAYER shall be offered:

Eternal and ever-present Spirit, from whom we derive our life and power, and to whom we come for the renewal of our strength, we ask thee to reveal the nearness of thy presence to our souls this day. Breathe into us the breath of the Divine Life; inspire us with a holy enthusiasm for truth and purity and love. Without thy blessing nothing can prevail, but when we put ourselves into communion with thee, there is vigour and joy. We ask this as thy children. Amen.

LORDS PRAYER

Then shall follow a LESSON.

HYMN

The chairman of the congregation shall then give the invitation of the congregation to the minister-elect:

Sir, we desire to install you as the settled minister of this congregation. We would have you dwell among us, preaching the word of truth in freedom and love, rebuking evil and maintaining righteousness, and ministering to us alike in our joys and in our sorrows, setting forth by your precept and example the Christian way of life.

Then, turning to the congregation, he shall say:

I now ask you, my fellow-worshippers, to rise and say with me:

Then members of the congregation shall stand, all others remaining seated, and say:

We, the congregation of AB, do hereby install you as minister of this congregation. On our part we solemnly pledge ourselves, so far as in us lies, to walk with you in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in all the ways of God, known to us or to be made known to us.

The congregation shall then be seated, and the minister-elect shall reply:

Friends, with a deep sense of responsibility, trusting not in my own strength but in the grace and power of God, I take up the ministry of this congregation, to which you have called me. I pledge myself, so far as in me lies, worthily to maintain the freedom of this pulpit, to speak the truth in love, both publicly and privately, without fear of persons, diligently to fulfil the several offices of worship, instruction and administration, according to the customs of this congregation, and in all things so to live as to promote piety and righteousness, peace and love among this people and with all men.

Then shall follow the PRAYER OF INSTALLATION:

Eternal God, grant thy blessing and help to thy servant who is called upon to minister to this people. Inspire his life and strengthen his hands so that he may be faithful to the trust laid upon him. Bless this congregation who desire to worship thee in simplicity and sincerity. Pour thy grace upon the mutual relationship established here this day, and may the influence of this church be maintained and increased by loyal service and consecration of spirit. Amen.

Then the chairman, on behalf the congregation, shall give the right hand of fellowship to the new minister, and, it may be, the president of the district association shall convey greetings.

HYMN

Then may follow a charge to the minister and a charge to the congregation, separated by a hymn, or a suitable address, with the omission of the hymn.

The service shall conclude with a HYMN and BENEDICTION.

9. The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

10. Benedictions

The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace, now and for evermore. Amen.

Now may the blessing of God be upon us. May his truth direct us and his love sustain us, and may he preserve our going out and our coming in, from this time forth, for evermore. Amen.

May the peace which passeth all understanding, which God alone can give and which the world can never take away, be with us now, and abide in our hearts for evermore. Amen.

Now may the spirit that was in Jesus, the spirit of divine sonship and human brotherhood, rest and abide with us, and make us evermore one in faith, hope and love. Amen.

Now the Lord of Peace himself give us peace at all times, and in all ways. The Lord be with

us all. Amen.

Now, O Father, may thy gracious blessing be with us all: May thy truth direct our minds, thy love possess our hearts, and thy peace rest on our spirits. Amen.

May the blessing of God, the Father Almighty, rest upon us and remain with us always, and the spirit of the Master Jesus Christ rule in our hearts evermore. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of his holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

May the light of God illumine our souls, and the warmth of his love kindle a flame of devotion in our hearts; may his blessing now descend upon us and remain with us for evermore. Amen.

The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers, that he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways. Amen.

Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and evermore. Amen.

Now may God make all grace to abound in you, that ye may abound unto every good work, and that through the proving of your faith men may glorify God. Amen.

Now may the God of all grace himself perfect, establish and strengthen us, and to him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Now may the spirit that was in Jesus be in us also, enabling us to know the truth, and to do the will of God, and to abide in his peace. Amen.