

PRAYING FAREWELL¹

God of our beginnings and endings,
we celebrate all we have shared with _____
and ask your blessings as they continue on their journey.
May the love that is in our hearts
be a bond that unites us forever.

Then may follow either the following PSALMODY or some other.

You, O God, will guard us from all evil: you will protect us.

You will protect our going out and our coming in:
both now and for ever.

Where can I flee from your Spirit:
or where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb to heaven, you are there:
if I lie in the grave, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning:
and dwell in the depths of the sea,

Even there, your hand shall lead me:
your hand shall hold me fast. *From Psalms 121 & 139*

Come to our help, comfort us and give us peace,
in your merciful goodness, O God,
for we are yours;

keep our feet from the evil path
and save us through Jesus Christ,
your Word and Wisdom. **Amen.**

¹ CELEBRATING COMMON PRAYER, A Version of the Daily Office SSF, compiled by David Standcliffe, Bishop of Salisbury and Brother Tristan SSF, 2002, pp. 302-303.

This READING or some other.

I thank my God, every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel.

And this is my prayer, that love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ we may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1: 3, 4, 9

The following RESPONSE may be said. Family Members and / or Friends may say their words together or individuals take a particular part.

**As you journey onward,
we ask forgiveness where we have failed you;
we give thanks for all you have given us;
we assure you of our love and prayers.**

The Person who is Leaving or Dying (if they are able and have the desire):

As I leave, I ask forgiveness where I have failed you;
I give thanks for all that you have given me;
I assure you of my love and prayers.

**As you experience the pain of change
and the insecurity of moving on,
we pray that you may also experience
the blessing of inner growth.**

The Person who is Leaving or Dying (if they are able and have the desire):

I know that God goes with me.

**We pray that you may never lose sight
of the shelter of God's loving arms.**

The Person who is Leaving or Dying (if they are able and have the desire):

I know that God goes with me.

**As you ponder your decisions
and wonder over the fruits of your choice,
we pray that the peace of Christ
may reign in your heart.**

The Person who is Leaving or Dying (if they are able and have the desire):
I know that God goes with me.

The Officiant then says,

We praise and thank you, God of the journey,
for (*our sister/brother/sibling/friend*) _____ who is
soon to leave us.

We entrust (*her/him/them*) into your loving care, knowing that you are
always the faithful traveller and companion on the Way.
Shelter and protect _____ from all anxiety.

Grant (*her/him/them*) the courage to meet the future,
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

_____, may God bless you. **Amen.**

Go in peace, for our God goes with you.

AT THE TIME OF DEATH²

"If it seems appropriate, this service might be adapted, to be used with a person who is very close to death."

We shall not all die
But we shall be changed.

The trumpet shall sound and the dead will rise immortal
And we shall be changed.

The perishable must be clothed with the imperishable
and the mortal must be clothed with immortality.

We shall not all die
But we shall be changed.

*Depending on the situation, the people present could sing
"Jesus Remember Me" (with someone competent leading).*

*Any of the following Psalms may be said: Psalm 23, Psalm 42,
Psalm 43, Psalm 121, Psalm 130, Psalm 139.*

This READING or some other.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'
John 14: 1-3, 6-7

² CELEBRATING COMMON PRAYER, A Version of the Daily Office SSF, compiled by David Standcliffe, Bishop of Saisbury and Brother Tristan SSF, 2002, pp. 305-308.

"MEMORIES OF THE DEPARTED

may be shared, ending with the following prayer":

O God,
Who brought us to birth and in whose arms we die:
in our grief (*and shock*) contain and comfort us,
embrace us with your love,
give us hope in our confusion
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

INTERCESSION may be offered.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We commend _____ to you, O God,
as (*she/he/they*) journeys beyond our sight.

God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy
you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.
Your Son, by dying for us, conquered death
And by rising again,
restored to us eternal life:

may we then go forward eagerly to meet our Redeemer
and, after our life on earth,
be reunited with all our siblings
in that place where every tear is wiped away
and all things are made new;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Or

Heavenly Father,
into whose hands Jesus Christ commended his spirit at the last hour:
into those same hands we now commend your servant _____,
that death may be for *(her/him/them)*
the gate to life and to eternal fellowship with you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And / or:

_____, our companion in faith and *(sister/brother/sibling)* in
Christ, we entrust you to God who created you.

May you return to the Most High who formed you
from the dust of the earth.

May the angels and the saints come to meet you
as you go forth from this life.

May Christ, who was crucified for you,
take you into his Kingdom.

May Christ the Good Shepherd give you a place within his flock.

May Christ forgive you your sins
and keep you among his people.

May you see your Redeemer face to face
and delight in the vision of God for ever. **Amen.**

And / or:

_____, may Christ give you rest in the land of the living
and open for you the gates of paradise;
may he receive you as a citizen of the Kingdom,
and grant you forgiveness of your sins:
for you were his friend.

Then is said THE BLESSING: May God enfold you with love, fill you with
peace , and lead you in hope. **Amen.**

END