

## Saying Goodbye Well

*May 2018 - Adapted*

### **Opening/ Chalice Lighting**

May this house be truly a place of Meeting—meeting one with another in warmth and joy and openness; meeting one with another in courage and love and trust.

### **Gray Hymnal #733** by Eileen B. Karpeles

Out of wood and stone, out of dream and sacrifice,  
the people build a home.  
Out of the work of their hands and hearts and minds,  
the people fashion a symbol and a reality.

May this house be truly a place of meeting:  
meeting in warmth and joy and openness;  
meeting in courage and love and trust.  
May all who enter here trust one another so surely  
that they may share the deep fires  
that burst into anger  
as much as the sweet spring waters  
that swell into laughter;  
the slow erosion of wounded tears  
as much as the soaring song.

May these walls know silence  
as a hundred hearts search inward,  
each for its own small spark of hope  
that might otherwise be snuffed out in the noise.  
May these rafters hear the voice of the child  
as surely as that of the orator  
and the sound of the lute  
and the clack of the typewriter  
and the swish of the broom  
and know that all are as holy  
as the shout of a million stars.

May the rain fall lightly on this house  
and the sun shine warmly  
and the winds blow softly  
and bless it  
as a place of joy and peace.

### **Opening Our Hearts**

Going around the circle, take one or two minutes to share one high point and one low point of your life since we last met.

## Readings

*"Before you can begin something new, you have to end what used to be. Before you can learn a new way of doing things, you have to unlearn the old way. Before you can become a different kind of person, you must let go of your old identity. So beginnings depend on endings. The problem is, people don't like endings." —William Bridges*

*Why can't we get all the people together in the world that we really like and then just stay together? I guess that wouldn't work. Someone would leave. Someone always leaves. Then we would have to say good-bye. I hate good-byes. I know what I need I need more hellos. —Charles M. Schulz*

## Sitting in Silence/Reflection

We will begin and end with the sound of the bell. You may wish to meditate on the questions below.

## Sharing/Deep Listening

Please share your thoughts on these questions or whatever they cause to arise in you. During this sharing, we will listen deeply without response or thought of response, as a gift to each other and ourselves.

- ♥ Can you think of a time you had to say goodbye to someone or something and think it was "a good goodbye"?
- ♥ Is there a goodbye in your past you'd like to have done differently?
- ♥ What makes a good goodbye for you?

## Sharing Together

Now that all have shared, you may wish to engage with each other's responses

## Tending the Groups

Our concerns, pleasures, and wishes for our groups.

## Singing

Go now in peace  
Go now in peace  
May the spirit of love surround you  
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

## Closing/Extinguishing the Chalice

May we know once again that we are not isolated beings but connected, in mystery and miracle, to the universe, to this community and to each other.

## Gray Hymnal #434 – Anonymous

May we be reminded here of our highest aspirations,  
and inspired to bring our gifts of love and service to the altar of humanity.

May we know once again that we are not isolated beings but connected in mystery and miracle, to the universe, to this community and to each other.

