



A Liturgy for Moving

This liturgy takes place in two locations, if possible. The first part is done in the home out of which the person is moving. The second part takes place in the new home. These two parts could be done at different times on the same day or on different days.

This liturgy allows time, space, and structure for acknowledging the good and the bad that comes with a move. The scripture reflects the idea that sorrow and joy are part of life. It also reassures of God's presence and provision in both sorrow and joy. The time for prayer allows participants to share the stories of life in a particular space, drawing closer to God and to each other in conversational prayer. This liturgy encourages the practice of learning to seek God and others in times of sorrow and joy. Creating community with God and others is a wonderful skill to learn and practice at any age.

Ritual elements

[Here](#) is an example of the crystal heart that could be used for this ritual. It's small, inexpensive and can easily be strung on some clear thread to make it simple to hang on a window latch or lite weight enough to secure with tape if desired.

The Psalm and the prayer which follow should be printed, front and back, on cardstock and given to each of the family members/participants. Two crystal hearts will also be given, one at the old home and one at the new home.

Psalm 126

(NRSVUE)

- ¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
- ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- ³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.
- ⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
- ⁵ May those who sow in tears

reap with shouts of joy.

**6 Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

Gracious God,

We pray that this house will be a place of peace.

(Isaiah 32:18)

We pray that this place will be full of laughter and joy.

(Psalm 126;2)

We pray that this place will be a safe place, a place of refuge.

(Psalm 12:7, Isaiah 4:6)

We pray that this will be a place where God will meet all needs.

(Philippians 4:19)

We pray that this will be a place where love abounds.

(Philippians 1:9-10)

We pray that this will be a place we will experience God's magnificent grace. *(2 Corinthians 9:8)*

We pray that this will be a place where God's kingdom is fully present. *(Matthew 6:10)*

We pray that this will be a place of blessings.

(Ephesians 1:3)

Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. *(1 Samuel 25:6)*

Ritual of Remembrance When Moving Out of a Home

Begin by reading Psalm 126

(NRSVUE)

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

**6 Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

Throughout God's word, God reminds us of God's faithfulness and all-encompassing love. God gives us reassurances. God reminds us not to worry. Throughout time, God writes a love story to us.

Today we come together to share the stories of love and of God's faithfulness that took place within these particular walls. We do this as a remembrance and a way to bear witness to the bittersweetness of God's blessings. We mark these moments as a beginning to the next faithful step in the journey of _____ as they go forward to serve their risen Lord.

We are going pray together a prayer of remembrance. At each part of the prayer, we will pause allowing anyone that would like time to share their thoughts and feelings in prayer. You are invited to pray silently or out loud during those pauses. At the end of each section, we will respond together with: Lord, Hear our Prayer

Prayer:

Loving God,

We thank you for your faithfulness.

We thank you for the great things you have done for _____ while they lived in this home.

We thank you for the love and laughter that has taken place within these walls.

We thank you for the protection and security that this space provided.

We thank you that time and again, you brought _____ home, to this place, with shouts of joy, bringing their harvest with them.

Lord, we offer you prayers of thanksgiving for the precious memories in the house that has been home. Remind us of the shouts of joy that you have gifted _____ with in the past. Sooth our hearts, Lord, with the gladness that _____ experienced here.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our Prayer

We offer you prayers of thanksgiving for those who have gathered here in the past and gather here now.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our Prayer

We offer you prayers for those who will move into this house and become the stewards of it.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our Prayer

Lord, we know that you are aware of each of the things that cause us to sow in tears. We lift to you the concerns that make our hearts heavy.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our Prayer

Lord, where there is anxiety bring peace. Where there is confusion, bring order. Where there is hurt, bring healing. Where there is difficulty, bring ease.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our Prayer

Lord, remind us of the shouts of joy that you have gifted us with in the past. Restore our gladness to us.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our Prayer

Lord, as we go out in weeping, thank you for the seeds that you send with us for sowing. Seeds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We know that you have placed in us the seeds necessary to grow the fruit of your spirit. We praise you for providing everything we need to reap a harvest.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our Prayer

Loving God, we are glad to say, "The Lord has done great things."
For the promised harvest and all your provision, we bless you, Lord.
And all the people said: **Amen**

We know that God's faithfulness follows us from this place and into the next. We leave in this home a remembrance of _____. (Presentation of crystal heart to hang in a window.) This heart represents the love of God that was part of _____ life here. The rainbows that it will give off are reminders of God's faithfulness to all. We leave this as a blessing for the next family and a witness of the prayers of blessing that we prayed for them today.

This service can continue at the next home, or it can be done in two parts.

Ritual of Blessing for a New Home

Read Psalm 126

(NRSVUE)

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

**⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

We gather to bless this new place for _____. This home is the next faithful step for them, and we are here to celebrate with them. We are here to anticipate the joy and blessing that this space will provide and to remind them of God's faithfulness and love for them.

We are going to do that with a prayer of blessing.

At each part of the prayer, we will pause allowing anyone that would like time to share their thoughts and feelings. You are invited to pray silently or out loud during those pauses. At the end of each section, we will respond together with: Lord, Hear our prayer.

Prayer:

Gracious and Loving God,

We pray that this house will be a place of peace.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

We pray that this place will be full of laughter and joy.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

We pray that this place will be a safe place, a place of refuge.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

We pray that this will be a place where God meets our needs.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

We pray that this will be a place where love abounds.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

We pray that this will be a place where _____ will experience God's magnificent grace.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

We pray that this will be a place where God's kingdom is fully present.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

We pray that this will be a place of blessings.

(Time for prayer, aloud or silently.)

Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

We thank you, God, that you are our God, filling our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. We thank you that we can tell of the great things that you have done. We thank you for providing this place. We trust that you are bringing _____ home with shouts of joy, their arms full of your love for them.

And all the people said: **Amen**

We know that God is faithful and that God is present in this place. Just as we left a remembrance at your last home, we bring into this home those shared memories along with a sense of expectation. (Presentation of crystal heart to hang in a window.) _____, this heart represents the love of God that will be part of life here. The rainbows that it will give are reminders of God's faithfulness. We leave this as a blessing for you and to remind you of the prayer of blessing that was prayed over your new home.



Benediction:

I Samuel 25:6

Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.

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