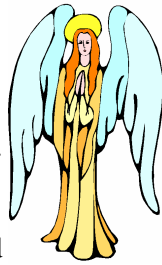


Hope

I have seen death too
often to believe in death.
It is not ending -
but a withdrawal.
As one who has finished
a long journey,
Stills the motor,
Turns off the lights,
Steps from his car,
And walks up the path to the home
that awaits.



—W. Blanding

Final Blessing: Shalom

Leader: Shalom.

All: Shalom.

Leader: May God's peace rest with
you. Shalom.

All: Shalom.

Leader: Wherever you go,
whatever you do. Shalom.

All: Shalom.

Leader: True peace of mind and heart.
Shalom.

All: Shalom.



Leader: A word of greeting,
a word for parting.
Shalom.

All: Shalom.

Leader: A word of beginning...
a whisper of eternity.
Shalom.

All: Shalom. Shalom...

—Susan Hardwick



Closing Prayer: Eternal Rest

Leader: Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord,
and let perpetual light
shine upon them.

**All: May the souls
of the faithful departed,
through the Mercy of God,
rest in peace.**

Amen

Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo
York Catholic District School Board

*"Those who believed in me,
even though they will die, will live..."
John 11:25*

Blessed Be Those Who Mourn...





Prior to the prayer service, participants are invited to bring a picture(s) of a loved one, the name of a loved one, and/or a candle. Place these items at the centre table.

Introduction

Today, we celebrate All Soul's Day. In fact all November is set aside for remembering our loved one's who have gone to our eternal home before us. While we recognize our sadness, we transcend this grief by coming to an acceptance and even a sense of joy in knowing that the Lord is with us in this life and beyond. You are invited to light a candle or name a loved one who has passed on.

Reading 1: Being There

In the deepest depths of pain
Of tiredness
Of vulnerability and fear,

I need you.

I do not need your words
Or wise advice.

I just need you.

You and me together
In the stillness.
Holding my hand as I weep,



Cradling me in the warmth of your love.

In the silence,
together.
Easing the loneliness,
Sharing the pain.
Just being behind me.
In your unknowingness.
Knowing that you cannot know the detail
Of my tortured mind,
Can never plumb the depths of pain.

The comfort of your presence
Brings healing.

Your hand on mine.
Your thoughts
So deeply entwined with mine
In a deep embrace
Of love,
A deep acknowledgement of my needs...

That I need you
Just
To be there.

-Pat Marsh



Reading 2: If I should never see

If I should never see the mountain again
Rising red gold across the harvest field,
Or feel the stinging of soft April rain,
As the brown earth her hidden treasures yield.
If I should never taste the salt sea spray
As the ship beats her course against the breeze,
Or smell the dog-rose and the new mown hay,
Or moss and primrose beneath the tree.
If I should never hear the thrushes wake
Long before sunrise in the glimmering dawn
Or watch the huge Atlantic rollers break
Against the rugged cliffs in baffling scorn.
If I have said goodbye to stream and wood,
To the wide ocean and the green clad hill,
I know that He who made this world so good
Has somewhere made a heaven better still.
This I bear witness with my latest breath
Knowing the love of God,
I fear not death.

-Malcolm Boyle

