

Poems and Reflections for Worship Aid



Name of Deceased

*Born to Life
Date of Birth*

*Born into Eternal Life
Date of Death*

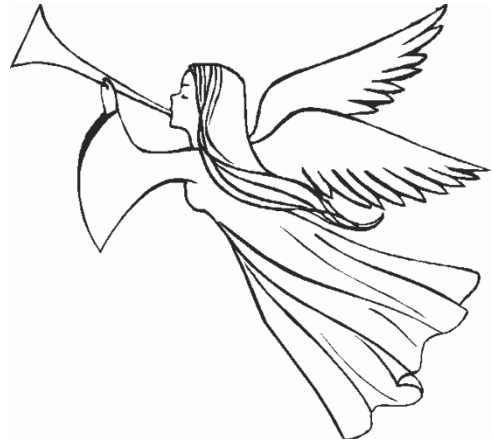
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Footprints
God's Garden
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I'm Free
Irish Blessing
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Prayer of St. Francis
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To those I have loved
We remember them
Weep Not for me
When I'm gone
When tomorrow starts without me

Cover Images



Cover Poems and Reflections

*Some people come into our lives
And quickly go;
Others stay for awhile
And leave footprints on our hearts...
And we are never, ever the same.*

C-1

*Irish Blessing
May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
The sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you
In the palm of His hand.*

C-2

*God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying,
neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are
passed away.*

C-3

Cover Poems and Reflections

*Well done,
Good and Faithful Servant;
Come, share your Master's Joy.*

C-4

*"To Live in the Hearts of Loved Ones
Is Not to Die..."*

C-5

*Those who live in the Lord
Never see each other for the last time.*

C-6

*Fill not your hearts with pain and sorrow,
But remember me in every tomorrow.
Remember the joy, the laughter and the smiles,
I've only gone to rest a little while.*

C-7

Cover Poems and Reflections

*We do not fix our gaze
On what is seen
But on what is unseen.
What is seen is transitory;
What is not seen lasts forever.*

C-8

*Only when we are no longer afraid do we begin to live in every
experience, painful or joyous, to live in gratitude for every
moment, to live abundantly.*

C-9

Cover or Back Cover Poems and Reflections

*God saw you were getting tired
And the cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around you,
And whispered, "Come to Me."*

*With tearful eyes we watched you suffer
And saw you fade away.
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands to rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.*

CB-10

*We little knew that morning, God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly, in death, we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you; you did not go alone.
For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories; your love is still our guide.
And although we cannot see you, you are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.*

CB-11

Cover or Back Cover Poems and Reflections

*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,*

*I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.*

CB-12

Women's Poems and Reflections

*Like God's love and grace,
a Mother's love is pure gift.
We do not earn it; it is
unconditional.
It flows from God's goodness
and great generosity to us.
Like God's love,
the love of a mother is stronger*

*than danger or death,
and lasts forever.*

CM-13

I see you...

In your chair

Always there

Everywhere

In my heart forever...

Mother

CM-14

*Woman of Compassion, Mother of Sorrows,
I draw inspiration from your journey.*

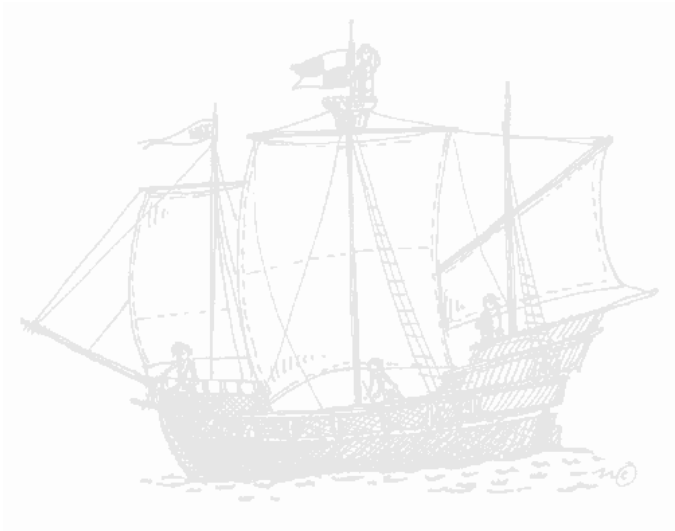
*I, too, can move through the pain
of my present situation.*

*Your faith and courage lead me
to my own strength.*

Excerpt from "I Speak to Mary" by Joyce Rupp

CM-15

*Background Shadow
Artwork*



Back Cover Poems and Reflections ...

Afterglow

*I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one,
I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done.*

*I'd like to leave an echo whispering
softly down the ways,
of happy times and laughing times
and bright sunny days.*

*I'd like tears of those who grieve,
to dry before the sun
of happy memories that I leave
when life is done.*

Called Home (Autumn)

*It is the first day of November,
and the fall is giving way to winter.
Soon the trees will lose the vibrant colors of their leaves
and the snow will cover the ground.
The earth will shut down,
and people will race to and from their destinations
bundled up for warmth.
Chicago winters are harsh.
It is a time of dying.
But we know that spring will soon come
with all its new life and wonder.
It is quite clear that I will not be alive in the spring.
But I will soon experience new life in a different way.
Although I do not know what to expect in the afterlife,
I do know that just as God has called me
to serve him to the best of my abilities
throughout my life on earth,
he is now calling me home.*

*Joseph Cardinal Bernadin
Died November 14, 1996
Requiescat in pacem.*

Cancer Didn't Win

His Love surrounds me every day,

forever and for all,
And in that love I am pain free,
and I am walking tall.
For cancer is a time bound thing,
that really hurts it's true,
But I'm now in eternity,
and looking down on you.
I have no pain, it has no hold,
on spirits now like me;
I'm in the arms of Jesus
and He has set me free.
So forget how much I suffered,
and forget about the pain,
I'm surrounded by God's love and peace,
and that is only gain.
Cancer didn't win, and it cannot,
don't you see;
God's love is all around us
and that's enough for you and me.

Child - There Was a Meeting up in Heaven

*There was a meeting up in heaven and the angels gathered round.
God spoke, "The babies will soon be coming, let the trumpets sound."
Make way for My tiniest angels, "God said, "For they are almost here"
Watch over them; I must go now and help dry their mothers' tears"*

*And so God went to His special place to hear the mothers pray,
Tears fell from His eyes as He listened to what they had to say.
The prayers were very different yet seemed to blend into one.
"You have my tiny angel, God, but my crying has just begun."*

*"I'm human and I'm weak, God and I don't know what to do;
I need Your love and strength, and Your help to get me through."
"Please allow me one more thing before I say "Amen" and go,
I need to speak to my babies now, so my love they will always know."*

*God gathered the tiniest angels, in His arms so they could hear.
Their earthly mothers speaking from their hearts and through their
tears.*

*From Gods eyes as well as the angels, tears began to leak,
And the trumpets sounded in Heaven, as the mothers began to speak.*

*"I can't hold you... I can't see you, or count your fingers and toe's.
Nor wrap you in a blanket, and kiss your little nose.
I'll never feel your heartbeat, as you lie against my chest.
But to question would be wrong, for God always knows best."*

*"I'll never hear, 'I love you' or 'mommy read to me'
It hurts so much to want you, knowing you weren't meant to be."
Although you were taken from me, you will always feel my love.
I know God will allow that in His kingdom up above."*

Christmas in Heaven

*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear.
For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs, that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare,
with the Christmas choir up here.*

*For I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring.
For it is beyond description, to hear an angel sing.
I can't tell you of the splendor, or the peace here in this place.
Can you just imagine Christmas, with our Savior, face to face?*

*I'll ask Him to light your spirit, as I tell Him of your love;
So then pray for one another, as you lift your eyes above.
Please let your heart be joyful, and let your spirit sing.
For I'm spending Christmas in Heaven, and I'm walking with the King!*

*I know how much you miss me; I see the pain inside your heart.
But I'm not so far away, we really aren't apart.
So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above.
I send you each a memory of my undying love.
After all "love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other as my Father said to do,
For I can't count the blessings or the love He has for you.
So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!*

by Wanda Bencke

The Concert

*I've gone to the Concert,
where Saints and Angels sing
a melody of thanks and praise
to Jesus, Friend and King.
I've gone to the Concert,
can you hear the music play?*

*It's when tomorrow comes;
it's at the beginning of today.
Are you coming to the Concert?
The orchestra is divine:
A symphony in perfect pitch
every generation, every time.
I hope to see you at the Concert.
I'll ask God to save a chair.
One day you'll be home with me
and I'll be singing with you there.
(A Reprise)*

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What Makes a Dad

*God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,*

*The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ...Dad!*

Death is Nothing at All

*Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away to the next room.
I am I, and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other,
That, we still are.*

*Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way
Which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.*

*Laugh as we always laughed
At the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word
That it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect.*

Without the trace of a shadow on it.

*Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same that it ever was.
There is absolute unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind
Because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you,
For an interval,
Somewhere very near,
Just around the corner.*

*All is well. Nothing is past; nothing is lost.
One brief moment
And all will be as it was before,
Only better, infinitely happier and forever
We will all be one together with Christ.*

Henry Scott Holland

The Eagle

*Summer's golden leaves lay still and peaceful
In the pale blue of a November twilight
As the Eagle rises strong and graceful
Soaring upward in unfettered flight.*

*His heart is ecstatic with his new found freedom
Unrestrained movement pulsating with power.
No longer bound by pull of gravity
Or restricted by length of hour.*

*And his discerning eyes that did always see
The place where he was most needed
Now sweep from horizon to horizon
With clarity of vision unimpeded.*

*The pent-up energy he had always felt
Impelling him to do all he achieved
Flows through his veins in steady rhythm
As from restraint it is relieved.*

*His quick mind knows that all he'd done
In the short period of time just ended
Would be eclipsed by what he would do
In the timelessness to which he has ascended.*

*So his heart beats forcefully, triumphantly
As wider and higher he soars to his goal:
His whole being suffused with the elixir of Joy
That pours forth from his transparent Soul.*

The Fisherman

*I saw an old fisherman out in a boat,
Rocking alone on the rippling waters.*

*“Are you fishing for sport?” I called out
to him, trying to be friendly,
but he only waved.*

*Thinking that maybe he couldn't hear me
too well,*

*I called out again in a louder voice.
“Are you fishing for food?” I asked him
this time, hoping to get a response.*

*Once again, he simply waved,
as his boat drifted a little more.*

*As he drew nearer, his face became clearer,
And soon I knew who he was.
“Are you fishing for me?” I asked Him this time,
Knowing the answer before He replied.
The Fisherman smiled as He held out His hand
And said to me, “Come aboard, Child.”*

Rosemarie E. Bishop

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. “LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you’d walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don’t understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.”

The LORD replied, "My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Author Unknown

God's Garden

*God looked around His garden
And found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth,
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew that you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough,
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids,
And whispered "Peace be thine."
It broke our hearts to lose you*

*But you didn't go alone
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.*

He Took My Hand

*Last night while I was trying to sleep,
A precious voice I did hear.
I opened my eyes and looked up,
My loved one did appear.*

*He said, "You've got to listen,
You've got to understand.
God didn't take me from you;
He only took my hand."*

*When I called out in pain that day,
The instant that I died,
He reached down and took my hand
And pulled me to His side.*

*He pulled me up and saved me
From the misery and the pain.
My body hurt so badly,
I could never be the same.*

*My search is really over now;
I've found happiness within.
All the answers to my empty dreams
And all that might have been.*

*I love you so and miss you too,
And I'll always be nearby.
My body's gone forever,
But my spirit will never die.*

*And so, you must go on now,
Live one day at a time.*

*Just understand
God did not take me from you,
He only took my hand.*

How Will You Live Your Dash?

*I read of a man who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on his tombstone
from the beginning ... to the end.
He noted that first came his date of birth
And spoke the following with tears,
But he said what mattered most to all
was the dash between those years.*

(1956 - 2001)

*For that dash represents all the time
That he spent alive on earth
And now only those who loved him
Know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own;
The cars ... the house ... the cash;
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.
So think about this long and hard
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger, and show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile
Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.
So when your eulogy's being read
With your life's action to rehash ...
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?*

If Tears Could Build a Stairway

*If tears could build a stairway
And thoughts a memory lane,
We'd walk right up to heaven
and bring you home again.*

*No farewell words were spoken
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knows why.*

*Our hearts still active in sadness
And tears still flow,
What it meant to lose you,
No one can ever know.*

*But now we know you want us
To mourn for you no more,
To remember all the happy times
Life still has in store.*

*Since you'll never be forgotten
We pledge to you today,
A hallowed place within our hearts
Is where you'll always stay!*

Author: Unknown

If You Never Felt Pain

*If you never felt pain,
Then how would you know I am a Healer?
If you never had to pray,
Then how would you know that I am a deliverer?
If you never had a trial,
How could you call yourself an over comer?
If you never felt sadness,
How would you know I am a Comforter?
If you never made a mistake,
How would you know I am a Forgiver?
If you knew all,
How would you know I will answer your questions?
If you were never in trouble,
How would you know I will come to your rescue?
If your were never broken,
Then how would you know I can make you whole?
If you never had a problem,
How would you know I can solve them?
If you never had any suffering,
Then how would you know what I went through?
If you never went through fire,
Then how would you become pure?
If I gave you all things,
How would you appreciate them?
If I never corrected you,
How would you know that I love you?
If you had all power,
Then how would you learn to depend on Me?
If your life was perfect,
Then what would you need Me for?
Love, Jesus*

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me..*

*I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.*

*Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that peace at close of day.*

*If parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.*

*A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.*

*My life's been full, I've savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.*

*Lift up your hearts and share with me
God wanted me now!!
HE SET ME FREE.*

Irish Blessing

*May the Irish hills caress you.
May her lakes and rivers bless you.
May the luck of the Irish enfold you.*

*May the blessing of St. Patrick behold you.
May the blessing of light be with you,
Light outside and light within.
May sunlight shine upon you and warm your
heart 'til it glows like a great peat fire.
May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sunshine be warm upon your face
and rains fall soft upon your fields.
May the blessing of rain—the soft sweet rain—
fall upon you so that little flowers spring
up to shed their sweet beauty in the air.
May shamrocks always be found beneath your feet.
May the earth rest easy over you when, at
last, you lie under it.
May the earth rest so lightly over you that
your spirit may be out from under it
quickly, and up, and off, and on its way to God.
May the angels themselves clear the path to
take you home.
And until we meet again, may God hold you in
the hollow of his hand.*

I've Only Gone to Rest a Little While

*Fill not your hearts with pain and sorrow,
but remember me in every tomorrow.*

*Remember the joy, the laughter
and the smiles,
I've only gone to rest a little while.
Although my leaving causes pain and grief,
my going has eased my hurt
and given me relief.
So dry your eyes and remember me,
not as I am now, but as I used to be.
Because, I will remember you all
and look on with a smile.
Understand, in your hearts,
I've only gone to rest a little while.
As long as I have the love
of each of you,
I can live my life
in the hearts of all of you.*

The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want,
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside the still waters.*

*He restores my soul.
He leads me in the paths of righteousness*

*for His name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence
of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup runs over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Love Doesn't Die
*Give what's left of me away
now that I'm gone.
Remember me with a smile and laughter
And if you need to cry...
cry for your brother and sister,
who walk in grief beside you.
And when you need me,
put your arms around anyone and give
to them what you need to give to me.
I want to leave you something...
Something better than words*

or sounds.
Look for me in the people
I've known or loved or
helped in some special way.
Let me live in your eyes as well as in your mind.
You can love me most
by letting love live
within the circle of your arms,
embracing the frightened ones.
Love doesn't die, people do...
So when all that's left of me is love,
give me away as best you can.
I'll see you at home,
where I'll be waiting.

Love Lives On

Love lives on. Love remains
Beyond the fear, beyond the chains.
Love is real. It's true, not free.
Love lives on in you and me.
We share a past; we share a bond.
Death's not an end; we'll carry on.
And through the dark, we'll see the dawn,
'Cause love remains, and love lives on.

Love can wound and leave you scarred,
Not soft or safe; yes, love is hard.
Love must be lived: a silent voice
That calls the heart. Love makes a choice

*To seek new life and see the best.
Yes, love is kind, and love forgets
The weary past; it presses on beyond the grave.
Yes, love lives on.*

*Love speaks the truth, when put on trial.
Love is a song, you teach a child.
It leaves a mark, a silent word,
That burns within, when it can't be heard.
When hope is bound by fear or chains
Love lives on; love remains.
When we are through, both dead and gone,
Somehow, some way our love lives on.*

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Miss Me ...But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the road,
And the sun has set for me.*

*I want no rites in a gloom-filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little...but not too long,
And not with your head bowed low.*

*Remember the love that was once shared,
Miss Me...But Let Me Go.*

*In this journey we all must take,
And each must go alone.*

*It's all part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the Friend we know.*

*And bury your sorrows in Him
Miss Me...But Let Me Go.*

Motherhood

...And the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years. And the mother grew ill, and she was weak and tired. But her children were tall and strong and walked with courage. And when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was light as a feather. And at last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide. And the mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. And I know now that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after

them.” And the children said, “You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates.” And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed behind her. And they said, “We cannot see her, but she is still with us. A mother like ours is more than a memory, she is a living presence.”

Adapted from “A Parable of Motherhood”

My Last Request

Please don't say that I gave up, just say that I gave in.

Don't say I lost the battle,

For it's God's war to lose or win.

Please don't say how good I was, but that I did my best.

Just say I tried to do what's right

To give the most I could, not to do less.

Please don't give me wings and halos; that's for God to do.

I want no more than I deserve, no extras, just my do.

Please don't give flowers or talk in harsh tones.

Don't talk about what could have been;

It's over and it's done.

Just see to all my family needs, the battle has been won.

When you draw a picture of me,

please paint I have done some good,

I have done some wrong, so use the bright and light tones.

Use some gray and dark, in fact; don't put me down on

canvas...paint me in your heart.

*Don't just remember the good times, but remember some bad,
For life is full of many things, some happy and some sad.
But if you must do something, then, I have one last request.*

*Forgive me the wrong I've done and with the love that's left
Praise God, for my soul is resting.
Praise God, for I've been blessed.
Praise God who loved me best.*

Native American Prayer

*I give you this one thought to keep
I am with you still—I do not sleep
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not think of me as gone*

I am with you still—in each new dawn.

Navy Hymn

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!*

*O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walked'st on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!*

*Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!*

*O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,*

*Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.*

O Sacred Heart Of Jesus

*O Sacred Heart of Jesus,
I place my trust in Thee!
Whatever may befall me, Lord,
Though dark the hour may be
In all my joys, in all my woes,
Though naught but grief I see,
O Sacred Heart of Jesus,
I place my trust in Thee.*

*When those I love have passed away,
And I am sore distressed,
O Sacred Heart of Jesus,
I fly to Thee for rest!
In all my trials, great or small,
My confidence shall be
Unshaken, as I cry, dear Lord,
"I place my trust in Thee."*

*This is my one sweet prayer, dear Lord!
My faith, my trust, my love,
But most of all in that last hour,
When death points up above.
Ah! Then, sweet Savior, may Thy face
Smile on my soul set free,
O may I cry with rapturous love,
"I've placed my trust in Thee."*

Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

*Grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to
console;*

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Safely Home

*I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.*

*All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.*

*Did you wonder why I so calmly
Trode the valley of the shade?
Oh, but Jesus' love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade.*

*And He came Himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?*

*Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still;
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's Will.*

*There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth-
You shall rest in Jesus' land.*

*When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!*

The Serenity Prayer

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
Forever in the next.
Amen.*

--Reinhold Niebuhr

To Those I Have Loved

*To those I have loved and to those who loved me,
When I am gone, release me; let me go.*

*I have so many things to see and do,
You must not tie yourself to me with tears.
Be happy that we had so many years.*

*I gave you my love; you can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I travel alone.*

*So grieve awhile for me if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for awhile that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.*

*I won't be far away, for life goes on,
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near,
And if you listen within your heart, you'll hear
All my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and welcome you home.*

We Remember Them

*In the rising of the sun and its going down,
We Remember Them.*

*In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
We Remember Them.*

In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,

We Remember Them.
In the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,
We Remember Them.
In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
We Remember Them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
We Remember Them.
When we are weary and in need of strength,
We Remember Them.
When we are lost and sick of heart,
We Remember Them.
When we have joys and special celebrations
we yearn to share,
We Remember Them.
So long as we live, they too shall live,
for they are part of us.
We Remember Them.

From the Jewish Book of Prayer

Weep Not For Me

Weep not for me when I am gone,
I've lived my life, I've sung my song.
Known tears of laughter, sun and rain,

*A life that brought more joy than pain.
I've been content with love so deep,
That peacefully, I'll ever sleep.
A love we shared with joy untold,
and kept me young, though I grew old.
I've held my babies in my arms,
And felt the thrill of their sweet charms.
Had many friends and family too,
That smoothed the way as I passed through.
Weep not for me, when life is done,
For I have been the richest one.
I will go home, content to see
The One who gave it all to me.*

When I'm Gone

*When I've come to the end of my journey
And I travel my last weary miles
Just forget if you can that I ever frowned
And remember only my smile.
Forget unkind words I may have spoken;*

*Remember some good I have done.
Forget that I ever had heartache;
And remember I've had loads of fun.
Forget that I've stumbled and blundered
And sometimes fell by the way.
Then forget to grieve for my going;
I would not have you sad for a day.
I thank our Lord for the graces of
Enlightenment and courage
I was given through the years.
And I ask for His blessings to those
I love and hold dear.*

By Helen Rohner

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

*When tomorrow starts without me and I'm not there to see;
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
all filled with tears for me.*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today;
While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,
And each time that you think of me I know you'll miss me too.*

But when tomorrow starts without me

*please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name and
took me by the hand.*

*And said my place was ready in heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.*

*But when I walked through heaven's gates
I felt so much at home;
When God looked down and smiled at me from His great golden
throne.*

*He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised you;
Today for life on earth is past but here it starts anew.
I promise no tomorrow for today will always last,
And since each day's the same way
there's no longing for the past."*

*So when tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me I'm right here in your heart.*