Times of Transition

**Moving House**

The family home is like a treasure chest of memories. It is a symbol of the life of a particular family. Leaving the family home, or any home, after some time is a very difficult and painful thing to do. Yet often families have to move for any number of reasons. The simple ritual below can help to name the pain of leaving and to honor the memory of the time lived within the home.  
The ritual begins at the front door. The person who leads the liturgy opens and closes it. During the ritual they move from room to room as desired.

**Leader:** God of all times and all seasons we remember and give thanks for the many people who have passed through this door over the years.  
The family members can name some of the people who come to mind.  
We ask your blessing on those we remember, and those we may have  
forgotten...

**Leader:** We remember our own comings and goings. Holidays, trips to visit our families, first days at school, bringing home the babies, leaving for a wedding.

The family members can name some of the events which come to mind.

We give thanks for the many wonderful times we had together, and we  
remember the difficult times and give thanks that we went through them  
together.

Let us bless God  
**All:** It is right to do so!

**Leader:** (The family room) We remember the nights when we sat around watching TV or playing games. We remember the parties we had here, the fights, the tears and the laughter.  
The family members can name some of the events which come to mind even some of the major TV stories.   
We watched the first man walked on the moon.

Let us bless God for so many memories  
**All:** It is right to do so!

**Leader:** (The kitchen) We remember this central place and for [mum....or Name] who cooked so many meals here. Our favorite meals...the everyday ones.  
Breakfasts on the hop and long family celebrations...Christmas dinners.  
The family members can name some of the events which come to mind

We give thanks for the stories we shared in here, the time we spent together over cups of tea/ coffee, for the fights over washing up, for all the good times.

Let us bless God for so many memories  
**All:** It is right to do so!

**Leader:** (The bedrooms) We remember our bedrooms, and for the comfort and security they brought us. We remember sleep overs and day sick in bed; We remember love shared, and anger put aside.

The family members can tell some of the stories which come to mind

We give thanks for the love and the life we shared together, and for all the  
people and things that enriched our lives.  
Let us bless God  
**All:** It is right to do so!

The family might like to write a farewell for other rooms or places, such as a favorite tree or a cubby house, or a dog kennel....

**Leader:** (The back door) This back door shows the signs of its age. We remember it as the way we came and went to the car, to the laundry, to the garden. It has been opened and closed more times than we can remember in excitement, in fear, in sorrow and in delight. It opens out into a larger space.

As we prepare to leave this home which has embrace our family for so long we give thanks that the time we have spent here has helped to form us into people who have a place beyond these walls.

When the family leaves for the last time as the key is placed in the door

We leave our home and walk out into the space beyond. We pray that we will build a new home and a new life together. We will not come into this house again. Our leaving is like a rehearsal for the other times ahead when we step out into a new life.

We ask that the Spirit of love and peace will come upon each of us and on all those who have shared our life in this house.

We ask God to bless the new owners of this house. May they know happiness here and grow into the mystery of love and wisdom that transforms house to home.

With thanks for the many blessing we have received, let us go forth in peace.  
Let us bless God  
**All:** It is right to do so!

*Adapted from A Ritual of Farewell to a Family Home by Shawn Madigan in Liturgy Vol 14 No 1*