

Blessing for Retirement

The following blessing and prayer can be included in the worship of the whole assembly. Those being prayed for can gather with the presiding and assisting ministers at the font or in another location in the worship space. This prayer could also be adapted for use in other settings such as a home or workplace.

The following reading from Philippians may precede the prayer and blessing.

The Apostle Paul writes: I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-5)

The presiding minister may invite worshipers to share how the retiree has been a blessing to them and the community.

The presiding minister continues with the prayer and blessing.

Let us pray.

For the life and ministry of *name*, we give you thanks, O God. For the gifts you have given *her/him* that *she/he* might serve your people, for opportunities to grow and learn, for relationships built through years of connection, we give you thanks, O God. As *name* now transitions to a new phase of rest and play, direct *her/him* in new ways of serving you and one another.

Amen.

or

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant *name*, who has enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family. Now bless and preserve *her/him* at this time of transition. Day by day, guide *her/him* and give *her/him* what is needed, friends to cheer *her/his* way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling *her/him*. By your Holy Spirit be present in *her/his* pilgrimage, that *she/he* may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The presiding minister continues:

You have been a blessing to the world. We now bless you as you enter a new phase of life.

The presiding minister may invite the assembly to raise a hand in a gesture of blessing.

Go with love. Go with joy. Go with peace.

The Spirit of God goes with you. Amen.

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