

But, I would not have you  
to be ignorant, brethren, concerning  
them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not,  
even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died  
and rose again, even so them also  
which sleep in Jesus will  
God bring with him.

For the Lord himself shall  
descend from heaven with a shout,  
with the voice of the archangel,  
and with the trump of God:  
and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Wherefore comfort one another  
with these words.  
1Thess. 4:13-14,16,18

---

I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith.  
Henceforth there is laid up for me  
the crown of righteousness..."  
2 Timothy 4:7-8

---

### **Bright New World**

We feel so sad when those we love  
Are touched by death's dark hand,  
But it would ease our sorrow  
If we could but understand  
That death is just a gateway  
That all men must pass through  
And on the other side of death,  
In a world that's bright and new,  
Our loved ones wait to welcome us  
To that land free from all tears  
Where joy becomes eternal  
And time is not counted by years.  
Helen Steiner Rice

---

### **After Glow**

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an after glow 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 and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,  
to dry before the sun.  
Of happy memories that I leave  
when life is done.

---

### **A Police Officers Prayer**

Lord, I ask you to be with me  
in a very special way,  
as I face the challenges  
that I must face each day.  
Please give me the compassion  
for the innocent I see.  
Help me protect and serve those  
who depend on me.  
And, when duty calls to danger,  
walk closely by me side.  
Install in me great courage,  
and be my strength, my guide.  
And, whenever I'm called to do,  
always thankful I will be,  
that you have been the unseen guest  
walking next to me.  
Amen

---

### **A Treasure for the King**

The wise may bring their learning,  
the rich may bring their wealth,  
and some may bring their greatness,  
and some bring strength and health:  
We too will bring our treasures  
To offer to the King;  
We have no wealth of learning,  
So, what shall we children bring?

We'll bring Him hearts that love Him;  
We'll bring him thankful praise,  
And young souls meekly striving  
To be with Him for all days:  
And these shall be the treasurers  
We offer to the King,  
For these are gifts that even  
The smallest of us can bring.

---

### **A Wife, a Mother, a Grandma too**

A wife, a mother, a grandma too  
This is the legacy we have from you.  
You taught us love and how to fight,  
You gave us strength, you gave us might.  
A stronger person would be hard to find,  
And in your heart, you were always kind.  
You fought for us all in one way or the other,  
Not just as wife, not just as mother.  
For all of us you gave your best,  
Now the time has come for you to rest.  
So go in peace, you've earned your sleep,  
Your love in our hearts, we'll eternally keep.

---

### **All Is Well**

Death is nothing at all.  
I have slipped away into the next room.

I am I, and you are you.  
Whatever we were to each other,  
That we are still.

Call me by my old familiar name,  
Speak to me in the easy way, which you always  
used.

Put no difference in your tone,  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed  
At the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Pray, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be the household word that it always  
was.

Let it be spoken without effect,  
Without trace of shadow on it.

Life means all that it ever meant,

It is the same as it ever was,

There is an unbroken continuity.

What is death but a negligible accident?

Why would I be out of mind because I am out of  
sight?

I am waiting for you for an interval,  
Somewhere very near, just around the corner.

-Canon Henry Scott Holland

---

### And God said

I said, "God, I hurt."

And God said, "I know."

I said, "God, I cry a lot."

And God said, "That is why I gave you tears."

I said, "God, I am so depressed."

And God said, "That is why I gave you sunshine."

I said, "God, life is so hard."

And God said, "That is why I gave you loved ones."

I said, "God, my loved one died."

And God said, "So did mine."

I said, "God, it is such a loss."

And God said, "I saw mine nailed to a cross."

I said, "God, but your loved one lives."

And God said, "So does yours."

I said, "God, where are they now?"

And God said, "Mine is on My right  
and yours is in the Light."

I said, "God, it hurts."

And God said, "I know."

---

### Bright New World

We feel so sad when those we love  
Are touched by death's dark hand,  
But it would ease our sorrow  
If we could but understand  
That death is just a gateway  
That all men must pass through  
And on the other side of death,  
In a world that's bright and new,  
Our loved ones wait to welcome us  
To that land free from all tears

Where joy becomes eternal  
And time is not counted by years.

- Helen Steiner Rice

---

### THE BROKEN CHAIN

We little knew that morning,  
that 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 peaceful memories,  
your love is still our guide;

and though 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.

---

### DAD

God took the strength of a mountain,

The majesty of a tree.

The warmth of the summer sun,

The calm of a quiet sea.

The generous soul of nature,

The comforting arm of night.

The wisdom of the age,

The power of the eagle's flight.

Then God combined these qualities,

There was nothing more to add.

His masterpiece was now complete,

He lovingly called it, Dad.

---

### Fathers Are Wonderful People

Fathers are wonderful people

Too little understood,

And we do not sing their praises

As often as we should ...

And Father struggles daily

To live up to "his image"

As protector and provider

And "hero of the scrimmage"

And perhaps that is the reason

We sometime get the notion

That Fathers are not subject

To the thing called emotion,

But if you look inside Dad's heart,

Where no one else can see,

You'll find he's sentimental

And as "soft" as can be ...

Fathers are just wonderful

In a million different ways,

And they merit loving compliments

And accolades of praise,

For the only reason Dad aspires

To fortune and success  
Is to make the family proud of him  
And to bring happiness ...  
And like Our Heavenly Father,  
He's a guardian and guide,  
Someone we can count on  
To be always on our side.  
Helen Steiner Rice

---

## HOW FATHERS MATURE

An article in a Dutch magazine reflects the transition through which most children have gone or are going in their assessment of their fathers.

4 years: My Daddy can do anything.  
7 years: My Daddy knows a whole lot.  
9 years: Dad doesn't know quite everything.  
12 years: Dad just doesn't understand.  
14 years: Dad is old fashioned.  
21 years: That man is out of touch.  
25 years: Dad's okay.  
30 years: I wonder what Dad thinks about this.  
35 years: I must get Dad's input first.  
50 years: What would Dad have thought about that?  
60 years: I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more

---

## Folded Hands

(In memory of his father)

He folded his hands in prayer;  
Morning, noon, and night,  
He walked in the Father's sight.  
In days that were gloomy or fair,  
He folded his hands in prayer.

He folded his hands in sleep,  
Closing each labored day  
In faith that his earthly way  
The watchful Shepherd would keep.  
He folded his hands in sleep.

He folded his hands in death,  
The peace of God in his soul,  
Assured of the heavenly goal.  
A prayer his expiring breath,  
He folded his hands in death.

- Victor E. Beck

---

## Daughter, You Are Special

"Special" is a word that is used to describe something one-of-a-kind

like a hug, or a sunset, or a person who spreads love  
with a smile or kind gesture.  
"Special" describes people who act from the heart and  
keep in mind the hearts of others.  
"Special" applies to something that is admired and precious and which never can be replaced.  
"Special" is the word that best describes you.  
-Teri Fernandez

---

## To Daughter

I remember so well our first meeting,  
I looked into your trusting eyes, and you captured my heart.  
Your tiny hands reached out  
and gave me warmth and purpose.  
The years since have passed so quickly --  
filled with happiness and love.  
No mother could ask for more in a daughter.  
I recall again that first meeting,  
with love and pride to be your mom.  
-Margaret Benson

---

## FEELINGS

We feel sad,  
for what we have lost.  
We feel happy,  
for what we have had.  
We feel poor,  
for the empty spaces.  
We feel rich,  
for we have each other.  
We will cry,  
for what we can't have.  
We will laugh,  
for our memories abound.  
We will hurt,  
for the love we can't give.  
We will rejoice,  
for the love we have received.  
We will be restless,  
for our lives are not whole.  
We will be peaceful,  
for we know its not forever.  
Annette Hamilton

---

## DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL

I have only slipped away into the next room  
I am I and you are you  
Whatever we were to each other  
That we are still  
Call me by my old familiar name  
Speak to me in the easy way 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 always enjoyed together  
Play, smile, think of me,  
Let my name be ever the household word that it  
always was  
Let it be spoken without effort  
Without the ghost of a shadow in it  
Life means all that it ever meant  
It is the same as it ever was  
There is absolute unbroken continuity  
Why should I be out of mind  
Because I am out of sight?  
I am 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  
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when  
we meet again!

Canon Henry Scott-Holland

---

### Because I Could Not Stop for Death

He kindly stopped for me;  
The carriage held but just  
ourselves and immortality.

We slowly drove, he knew no haste,  
And I had put away my labor,  
And my leisure too, for his civility.

We passed the school where children played,  
Their lessons scarcely done;  
We passed the fields of grazing grain,  
We passed the setting sun.

We passed before a house that seemed  
A swelling on the ground;  
The roof was scarcely visible.  
The cornice but a mound.

Since then 'tis centuries,  
But each feels shorter than a day;  
I just surmised the horses' heads  
Were toward eternity.

---

### The Firefighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God, whenever flames  
may rage;  
Give me strength to save some life, whatever be its  
age.  
Help me embrace a little child before it is too late  
Or save an older person from the horror of that  
fate.  
Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout,  
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me,  
To guard my every neighbor and protect his  
property.  
And if, according to my fate, I am to lose my life;  
Please bless with your protecting hand  
my children and my wife.

---

### Desiderata

"Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,  
and remember what peace there may be in silence.  
As far as possible, without surrender,  
be on good terms with all persons.  
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;  
and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant;  
They too have their story.  
Avoid loud and aggressive persons;  
they are vexatious to the spirit.  
If you compare yourself with others,  
you may become vain or bitter,  
for always there will be greater and lesser persons  
than yourself.  
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.  
Keep interested in your own career, however  
humble;  
It is a real possession in the changing fortunes of  
time.  
Exercise caution in your business affairs,  
for the world is full of trickery.  
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;  
Many persons strive for high ideals,  
and everywhere life is full of heroism.  
Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection.  
Neither be cynical about love;  
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment  
it is as perennial as the grass.  
Take kindly the council of the years,  
Gracefully surrendering the things of youth.  
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden  
misfortune.  
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.  
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.  
Beyond a healthy discipline,  
Be gentle with yourself.  
You are a child of the universe no less than the  
trees and the stars;  
you have a right to be here,  
and whether or not it is clear to you,  
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.  
Therefore, be at peace with God,  
Whatever you conceive Him to be.  
And whatever your labors and aspirations,  
in the noisy confusion of life,  
keep peace in your soul.  
With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,  
it is still a beautiful world.  
Be cheerful.  
Strive to be happy."

---

**There is a season for everything,**

A time for every occupation under heaven,  
A time for giving birth,  
A time for dying,  
A time for planting,  
A time for uprooting what has been planted.  
A time for killing,  
A time for healing,  
A time for knocking down,  
A time for building.  
A time for tears,  
A time for laughter,  
A time for mourning,  
A time for dancing.  
A time for throwing stones away,  
A time for gathering them up,  
A time for embracing,  
A time to refrain from embracing.  
A time for searching,  
A time for losing,  
A time for keeping,  
A time for throwing away.  
A time for tearing,  
A time for sewing,  
A time for keeping silent,  
A time for speaking,  
A time for loving,  
A time for hating,  
A time for war,  
A time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

---

**FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND**

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each, I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints; other times there was only one.

During the low period of my life I could see only one set of footprints, so I said, "You promised me, Lord, that you would walk with me always. Why, when I have needed you most, you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."

---

For every burden that we bear,  
for every sorrow, every care,  
there's a reason.  
For every grief that bows the head,  
for every tear drop that is shed,  
there's a reason.  
For every hurt, for every plight,

for every lonely painracked night,  
there's a reason.  
But if we trust God as we would,  
all must work out for our good,  
He knows the reason

---

God's finger touched her  
And she slipped away  
From earth's dark shadows  
to a brighter day;  
God saw the road was getting rough,  
The hills were hard to climb;  
He gently closed her weary eyes,  
and whispered, "Peace be thine."  
To a beautiful garden this friend has gone,  
To a land of perfect rest;  
Though she is gone, she still lives on,  
In the garden of memory.

---

**For those I love and  
For those who love me**

When I am gone, release me, let me go...  
I have so many things to see and do.  
You mustn't 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 traveled on alone.

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must;  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.

It's only for a while we must part,  
so bless the memories that lie within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on.  
So if you need me, call and I will come...  
Tho you can't see me or touch me, I'll be near.

And if you listen with your heart, you will hear  
all of my love around you, soft and clear.

And then when you come this way alone...  
I'll greet you with a smile and a  
"Welcome Home"

---

**God Called**

God looked around his garden,  
And He found an empty place.  
He then looked down upon this 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 you were in pain  
He knew that you would never  
Get well on earth again.

He saw that the road was getting rough  
And the hills are 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.

---

God gives us each a gift of life  
To cherish from our birth.  
He gives us friends and those we love  
To share our days on Earth.

He watches us with loving care  
And takes us by the hand,  
He blesses us with countless joys  
And guides the lives we've planned.

Then, when our work on Earth is done,  
He calls us to His side,  
To live with Him in happiness  
Where peace and love abide.

---

### God Grant Me The Serenity...

... to accept the things I cannot change,  
courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,  
enjoying one moment at a time,  
accepting hardship 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.

---

God hath not promised  
skies always blue,  
flower-strewn pathways  
all our lives through;  
God hath not promised  
sun without rain,  
joy without sorrow,  
peace without pain.

But God hath promised  
strength for the day,

rest for the labor,  
light for the way,  
grace for the trials,  
help from above,  
unfailing sympathy,  
and undying love.

---

For I know whom I have believed, and am  
persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have  
committed unto him against that day  
— II Timothy 1:12b

---

God saw he was getting tired  
And a cure was not to be.  
So he put his arms around him  
And whispered, come with Me.  
With tearful eyes we watched him suffer  
And saw him fade away.  
Although we loved him dearly,  
We could not make him stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands to rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.

---

God saw she was getting tired  
And a cure was not to be.  
So He put His arms around her  
And whispered, come with Me.  
With tearful eyes we watched her suffer  
And saw her fade away.  
Although we loved her dearly,  
We could not make her stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands to rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.

---

### God's Garden I

God looked upon his garden  
And found an empty place.  
He then looked down upon this 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 you were in pain.  
He knew 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.  
You left us beautiful memories,  
Your love is still our guide.  
And though 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.

---

### God's Garden II

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 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.

---

### GONE FISHING

Don't grieve for me, I've gone fishing  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow  
My life's been very full  
Now I'm free to enjoy it all

If my 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

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief  
But remember me with a twinkle in my eye

I'm not far away  
I've gone fishing

---

### Surely Jesus loves fishermen

Surely Jesus loves fishermen  
For He chose them for His own,  
To be with Him and learn from Him  
And someday share His home.

It must have been their trust in God  
And patience he found rare,

That keeps them very near His heart  
And ever in His care.

-Anne Kujawa

---

### A Fisherman's Prayer

God grant that I may live to fish  
until my dying day.  
And when my final cast is made  
I most humbly pray,  
When in the Lord's landing net  
I am peacefully asleep,  
that in his mercy I be judged  
as good enough to keep.

---

### GRANDMOTHER POEM

My Grandma is an angel now,  
way up in the sky.  
I miss her lots, but yet I know  
that I don't need to cry.

'Cause heaven is a special place  
and it needs Grandma's too,  
to kiss the baby angels face  
when one of them is blue.

They wash the angel's dishes,  
and bake the angel's bread,  
and shine the stars up in the sky,  
and make sure the angel kids are fed.

So, when God needed a Grandma,  
He looked around for the best,  
and He chose My Grandma  
over all the rest.

So, if your Grandma goes to heaven,  
there's no need to be sad,  
'cause she's an angel Grandma now,  
and that should make you glad.

---

It's difficult when someone  
Who is loved cannot be there,  
But memories that are made and shared  
Will keep a loved one near.  
And God, with loving wisdom,  
Will be there to guide us through;  
He'll help us meet tomorrow  
And He'll give us strength anew.

---

That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish,  
but have eternal life  
– John 3:15

---

### Irish Blessing

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

---

### Grin

If you're up against a bruiser and you're getting  
knocked about –  
Grin.  
If you're feeling pretty groggy, and you're licked  
beyond a doubt –  
Grin.  
Don't let him see you're finking, let him know with  
every clout,  
Though your face is battered to a pulp, your  
blooming heart is stout;  
Just stand upon your pins until the beggar knocks  
you out –  
And grin.  
This life's a bally battle, and the same advice holds  
true  
of grin.  
If you're up against it badly, then it's only one on  
you,  
So grin.  
If the future's black as thunder, don't let people see  
you're blue;  
Just cultivate a cast-iron smile of joy the whole day  
through;  
If they call you "Little Sunshine", wish that THEY'D  
no troubles, too –  
You may – grin.  
Rise up in the morning with the will that, smooth or  
rough,  
You'll grin.  
Sink to sleep at midnight, and although you're  
feeling tough,  
Yet grin.  
There's nothing gained by whining, and you're not  
that kind of stuff;  
You're a fighter from away back, and you WON'T  
take a rebuff:  
Your trouble is that you don't know when you have  
had enough –  
Don't give in.  
If Fate should down you, just get up and take  
another cuff;  
You may bank on it that there is no philosophy like  
bluff,  
And grin.

---

### I Am Always With You

I am always with you  
When I am gone, release me, let me go.  
I have so many things to see and do,  
You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many tears,

But be thankful we had so many good years.  
I gave you my love, and you can only guess  
How much you've given me in happiness.  
I thank you for the love that you have shown,  
But now it is time I travelled on alone.  
So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust  
That it is only for a while that we must part,  
So treasure the memories within your heart.  
I won't be far away for life goes on.  
And if you need me, call and I will come.  
Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near  
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear  
All my love around you soft and clear  
And then, when you come this way alone,  
I'll greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home".

---

### I am not there

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep  
I am in a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the softly falling snow.  
I am the gentle showers of rain,  
I am the fields of ripening grain.  
I am in the morning hush,  
I am in the graceful rush  
Of birds in circling flight.  
I am the star shine of the night.  
I am in the flowers that bloom,  
I am in a quiet room,  
I am the birds that sing,  
I am in each lovely thing.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there. I did not die.  
- Mary Frye

---

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my  
side spreads her white sail to the morning  
breeze  
and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object  
of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her  
until at length she hangs like a speck of white  
cloud just where the sea and sky come to  
mingle with each other.  
Then someone at my side says: "There, she  
is gone!"

"Gone where?"

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just  
as large in mast and hull and spar as she was  
when she left  
my side and she is just as able to bear her  
load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And  
just at the moment when someone at my side  
says: "There,  
she is gone!" there are other eyes watching  
her coming, and other voices ready to take up  
the glad shout: "Here she comes!"

And that is dying.

Henry Van Dyke

---

I LEAVE 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 WAKE  
IN THE MORNING HUSH,  
I AM THE SWIFT, UPLIFTING RUSH  
OF QUIET BIRDS IN CIRCLING 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.

---

### I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God has laid you see.  
I took His hand when I heard His 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 the peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joys --  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Oh 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 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 peace to thee --  
God wanted me now; He set me free.

---

### Legend of the Dogwood

Once upon a time, the dogwood was as mighty as  
the oak.

One day, the Roman authorities decided to use it  
for the Cross of Jesus. Upon learning this, the tree  
was seized with sorrow. But Jesus sensed the  
agony of the dogwood timbers over the cruel duty  
they were about to perform.

And Jesus, in his great compassion said, "Because  
of your sorrow over my suffering, you shall  
henceforth grow slender, bent and twisted, so that  
your wood can never again be used as a cross.

And you shall bear blossoms in the shape of a  
cross, and on them shall appear a crown of thorns  
and nailprints stained with red so that all who see  
them will remember that I carried you to Calvary."

---

In my Father's house are many mansions;  
if it were not so, I would have told you.  
I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you,  
I will come again, and receive you unto myself;  
that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:2-3

---

### I'm Not Growing Old

They say that I am growing old  
I've heard them tell it times untold,  
In language plain and bold -  
But I'm NOT growing old.

This frail old shell in which I dwell  
Is growing old, I know full well -  
But I am not the shell.

What if my hair is turning grey?  
Grey hairs are honorable, they say.  
What if my eyesight's growing dim?

I can still see to follow Him  
Who sacrificed His life for me  
Upon the Cross of Calvary.

What should I care if Time's old plow  
Has left its furrows on my brow?  
Another house not made by hand,  
Awaits me in the glory land.

What though I falter when I walk?  
What though my tongue refuse to talk?

I still can tread the Narrow Way,  
I still can watch and praise and pray.

My hearing may not be so keen  
As in the past it may have been,  
Still, I can hear my Saviour say  
In whispers soft, "This is the way."

The outward man - do what I can  
to lengthen out his life's short span -  
Shall perish, and return to dust,  
As everything in nature must.

The inward man, the Scriptures say,  
Is growing stronger every day.

Then how can I be growing old  
When safe within my Savior's fold?  
Ere long my soul shall fly away,  
And leave this tenement of clay.  
"This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise  
To seize the everlasting prize"  
I'll meet you on the Streets of Gold,  
and PROVE that I'm not growing old.

-John E. Roberts

Blessed is the one who  
perseveres under trial because,  
having stood the test,  
that person will receive the crown of life  
that the Lord has promised  
to those that love Him

James 1:12

---

For God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in Him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.

John 3:16

---

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we  
forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

---

God made a wonderful mother,  
A mother who never grows old;  
He made her smile of the sunshine,  
And He molded her heart of pure gold;  
In her eyes He placed bright shining stars,  
In her cheeks, fair roses you see;  
God made a wonderful mother,  
And He gave that dear mother to me.

-Pat O'Reilly

---

### **My Mom**

There's a brand new star

In the midnight sky.  
God lifted the curtain,  
And she slipped by.  
Her blessing was welcome  
Her waiting was long  
She is at peace with our Lord  
Where she belongs.  
We look at the rainbow  
Through our tears,  
And think of her blessings  
These many years.  
Peace and Love,  
You've earned your rest.  
God be with you,  
He knows best.  
By Ruth Hurst

---

### **MOTHER**

To one who bears the sweetest name,  
And adds a luster to the same,  
Long life to her, for there's no other,  
Who takes the place of my dear Mother

---

### **Mothers Are Special**

There is no love like a mother's love,  
no stronger bond on earth  
Like the precious bond that comes from God,  
to a mother when she gives birth.

A mother's love is forever strong,  
never changing for all time  
And when her children need her most,  
a mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers,  
God bless them every one  
For all the tears and heartache,  
and for the special work they've done.

When her days on earth are over,  
a mother's love lives on  
Through many generations,  
with God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers,  
for they love with a higher love  
From the power God has given,  
and the strength from up above.

---

### **Mothers Never Die**

You have never lost your mother  
though you've said your last goodbyes  
though there's heartbreak in parting  
no one's mother really dies.

If you love to hear the old songs  
for the memories they bring  
It's because you had a mother  
who taught you how to sing.

If you stop to help a neighbor  
search your heart and you will find  
It's because you had a mother  
who's taught you to be kind.

If you go to church when weary  
seeking God to guide your way  
It's because you had a mother  
who's taught you how to pray.

No you've never lost your mother  
though you've said your last goodbyes  
through your thoughts and deeds she's living  
no one's mother really dies.

---

### **Mothers Never Really Die - They Just Keep Home Up In The Sky**

Death beckoned her with outstretched hand  
and whispered softly of "An Unknown Land" -

But she was not afraid to go  
for though the path she did not know,  
she took Death's hand without a fear,  
for He who safely brought her here  
had told her He would lead the way  
into Eternity's bright day...

And so she did not go alone  
into the "Valley That's Unknown" -  
She gently took Death by the hand  
and journeyed to "The Promised Land"...

And there, with step so light and gay,  
she polishes the sun by day  
And lights the stars that shine at night  
And keeps the moonbeams silvery bright...

For Mothers really never die,  
They just "Keep House Up In The Sky"...  
And in the Heavenly home above  
They wait to "Welcome" those they love.

---

### **My Mother Kept A Garden**

My Mother kept a garden.  
A garden of the heart;  
She planted all the good things,  
That gave my life it's start.

She turned me to the sunshine,  
And encouraged me to dream:  
Fostering and nurturing  
The seeds of self-esteem.

And when the winds and rains came,

She protected me enough;  
But not too much, she knew I'd need  
To stand up strong and tough.

Her constant good example,  
Always taught me right from wrong;  
Markers for my pathway  
To last my whole life long.

I am my Mother's garden,  
I am her legacy.  
And I hope today she feels the love,  
Reflected back from me.

---

### **Not In Vain**

If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain:  
If I can ease one life the aching,  
Or cool one pain,  
Or help one fainting robin  
Unto his nest again,  
I shall not live in vain.

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

---

### **L 'ENVOI**

By RUDYARD KIPLING.

When earth's last picture is painted,  
and the tubes are twisted and dried,  
When the oldest colors have faded, and  
the youngest critic has died,  
We shall rest, and, faith, we shall  
need it--lie down for an eon or two,  
Till the Master of all good workmen  
shall set us to work anew!

And those that were good shall be happy:  
they shall sit in a golden chair;  
They shall splash at a ten-league canvas  
with brushes of comets hair;  
They shall find real saints to draw  
from --- Magdalene, Peter and Paul;  
They shall work for an age at a sitting  
and never be tired at all!

And only the Master shall praise us,  
and only the Master shall blame;  
An no one shall work for money, and  
no one shall work for fame;  
But each for the joy of the working,  
and each, in his separate star  
Shall draw the thing as he sees it for  
the God of things as they are!

---

O Divine Master, grant that  
I may not so much seek

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.  
It is in dying that we are born  
To Eternal Life.  
- ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

---

### Memorare

Remember,  
O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never it was known  
that anyone  
who fled to thy protection,  
implored thy help,  
or sought thy intercession  
was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly unto thee,  
O Virgin on virgins,  
my Mother.  
To thee I come;  
before thee I stand,  
sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word incarnate,  
despise not my petitions,  
but in thy clemency  
hear and answer them. Amen.

---

### MY GOD

You loved me before my conception,  
regardless of what I might be.  
You brought me to life and existence,  
and I wonder so often, "Why me?"  
You let me experience sorrow  
and pleasure and comfort and glee.  
You placed me in time on a planet  
and promised eternity.  
  
But if there would be no tomorrow,  
I'd still want to love You today.  
And were there no bliss and no future,  
I'd still want to follow Your way.  
For with You there is peace and contentment  
and in you is "rest", as they say,  
So I give you myself as a lover  
to do with whatever you may.  
-- Father Rudy Pakiz

---

May the angels  
lead you into Paradise,  
May the Martyrs  
receive you at your coming,  
and take you to Jerusalem

the Holy City.  
May the choirs of the Angels receive you,  
and may you with the once poor Lazarus,  
have rest everlasting.  
Amen.  
May the Souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace.  
Amen.

---

### 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;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
  
O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much  
seek 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.

### SAINT – FRANCIS

---

When you're alone with Jesus  
and He sweetly smiles on thee.  
Will you gently whisper to Him  
a little prayer for me?

And when I'm alone with Jesus  
and all else is hid from view,  
I'll gently drop into His heart  
a little prayer for you.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph  
My Jesus, mercy.  
O' Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
I place my trust in You.

---

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:  
Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The  
Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but  
in everything, by prayer and petition, with  
thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And  
the peace of God, which transcends all  
understanding, will guard your hearts and your  
minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is  
noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever  
is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is  
excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.  
Whatever you have learned or received or heard

from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And  
the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4-9

---

### THE MASTER'S BOUQUET

The Master walked in His garden,  
plucking flowers along the way;  
He plucked on of my loved ones,  
to add to His bouquet.

My heart at first was broken,  
at the loss of one so dear;  
but the tears I shed just washed my eyes,  
so I saw His way more clear.

My Lord has a need for just this one,  
for the pattern He has in mind;  
but it's hard for the rest of us to see  
why we must be left behind.

Perhaps we are not ready to go just yet  
we may need to ripen more,  
to reach the full blown fragrance  
my Lord is waiting for.

To each give forth a fragrance  
to each we chance to meet  
we should each be trying day by day  
to make our fragrance sweet.

So I'm going to try my very best  
to be loving and kind each day,  
so at least I'll be counted worthy  
to be part of my Master's Bouquet.

---

But, I would not have you  
to be ignorant, brethren, concerning  
them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not,  
even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died  
and rose again, even so them also  
which sleep in Jesus will  
God bring with him.

For the Lord himself shall  
descend from heaven with a shout,  
with the voice of the archangel,  
and with the trump of God:  
and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Wherefore comfort one another  
with these words.  
1Thess. 4:13-14,16,18

---

### Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the  
paths of righteousness for His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for Thou art with me;  
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou anointest my head with oil;  
my cup runneth 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.

---

### Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,  
all ye lands.  
Serve the Lord with gladness:  
come before his presence with singing.  
Know ye that the Lord he is God:  
it is he that hath made us,  
and not we ourselves; we are his people,  
and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise:  
be thankful unto him, and bless his name.  
For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting;  
and his truth endureth to all generations.

---

### Psalm 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,  
from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the Lord,  
which made heaven and earth.  
The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord  
is thy shade upon thy right hand.  
The sun shall not smite thee by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:  
He shall preserve thy soul.  
The Lord shall preserve thy going out  
and thy coming in from this time  
forth, and even for evermore.

---

### Psalm 33

<sup>1</sup> Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

2 Praise the LORD with the harp;  
 make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.  
 3 Sing to him a new song;  
 play skillfully, and shout for joy.  
 4 For the word of the LORD is right and true;  
 he is faithful in all he does.  
 5 The LORD loves righteousness and justice;  
 the earth is full of his unfailing love.  
 6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
 their starry host by the breath of his mouth.  
 7 He gathers the waters of the sea into jars<sup>a</sup>;  
 he puts the deep into storehouses.  
 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
 let all the people of the world revere him.  
 9 For he spoke, and it came to be;  
 he commanded, and it stood firm.  
 10 The LORD foils the plans of the nations;  
 he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.  
 11 But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,  
 the purposes of his heart through all  
 generations.  
 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
 the people he chose for his inheritance.  
 13 From heaven the LORD looks down  
 and sees all mankind;  
 14 from his dwelling place he watches  
 all who live on earth—  
 15 he who forms the hearts of all,  
 who considers everything they do.  
 16 No king is saved by the size of his army;  
 no warrior escapes by his great strength.  
 17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;  
 despite all its great strength it cannot save.  
 18 But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear  
 him,  
 on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,  
 19 to deliver them from death  
 and keep them alive in famine.  
 20 We wait in hope for the LORD;  
 he is our help and our shield.  
 21 In him our hearts rejoice,  
 for we trust in his holy name.  
 22 May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,  
 even as we put our hope in you.

### RESURRECTION PRAYER

MOST merciful Father,  
 we commend out departed into your hands.  
 We are filled wit the sure hope that our departed  
 will rise again on the last Day  
 with all who have died in Christ.  
 We thank you for all the good things you have  
 given  
 during our departed's earthly life.  
 O Father, in your great mercy,  
 accept our prayer that the Gates of Paradise  
 may be opened for your servant.  
 In our turn, may we too be comforted by the words  
 of faith  
 until we greet Christ in glory

and are united with You and our departed.  
 Through Christ our Lord,  
 Amen.

---

### Deer Hunter's Prayer

Here I sit again, O Lord with the rifle in my hand  
 peering through the morning darkness perched  
 high in my tree stand. The silence is broken by the  
 sound of geese flying up river. The morning air is  
 chilly and I start to shiver. And Lord, you know I'm  
 due a little luck and I start to wonder, will this be  
 the day that I come face to face with that ol' wily  
 buck? As the sun rises and light breaks through the  
 trees, I hear the sound of breaking limbs and  
 something walking through the leaves. My heart  
 begins to pound and as I raise my gun to fire, I  
 realize it's too late. For behind me, a shot rings out  
 and the buck has met his fate. All my dreams  
 vanish as I watch the ten point fall. Lord, I already  
 had him mounted and hanging on my wall. So  
 Father, when my last hunt is over and I leave these  
 woods behind; I would like to ask a favor if you  
 would be so kind ---  
 That when I enter through the pearly gates and  
 come into Your glory land; Instead of the mansion  
 you promised, Lord how about just an old tree  
 stand?

---

### Some Day

Some day all doubt and mystery  
 will be made clear;  
 the threatened clouds which now we see  
 will disappear.

Some day what seems a punishment,  
 or loss, or pain,  
 will prove to be God's blessing sent  
 for every gain.

Some day our weary feet will rest  
 in sweet content,  
 and we will know how we were blest  
 by what was sent.

And looking back with clearer eyes  
 O'er life's short span,  
 will see with wondering, glad surprise,  
 God's perfect plan.

And knowing that the way we went  
 was God's own way,  
 will understand His wise intent,  
 Some day – some day.

---

He has achieved success  
 Who has lived well,  
 Laughed often and loved much...

Who has filled his niche  
and accomplished his task;  
Who has left the world better  
than he found it.  
Who never lacked appreciation  
of earth's beauty  
or failed to express it;  
Who has always looked for  
the best in others  
and gave them the best he had -

B.A. Stanley

---

### TAPS I

Day is done, gone the sun,  
from the hills, from the lake,  
from the sky.

All is well, Safely rest,  
God is nigh.

Thanks and praise for our days.  
'neath the sun, 'neath the stars,  
'neath the sky.

As we go, this we know,  
God is nigh.

---

### TAPS II

Fading light dims the sight  
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright  
From afar drawing nigh,  
Falls the night.

Day is done, gone the sun  
From the hills, from the lake, from the sky  
All is well, safely rest;  
God is nigh.

Thanks and praise for our days;  
'neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky.  
As we go, this we know;  
God is nigh.

Then goodnight, peaceful night;  
Till the light of the dawn shineth bright.  
God is near, do not fear,  
Friend, goodnight.

---

### TAPS III

*Day is done, gone the sun  
from the hills, from the lake, from the sky  
All is well, safely rest;  
God is nigh.*

*Thanks and praise for our days;*

*'neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky.  
As we go, this we know;  
God is nigh.*

*Then goodnight, peaceful night;  
Till the light of the dawn shineth bright.  
God is near, do not fear,  
Friend, goodnight.*

---

Thanks to our American heroes,  
whose devotion is second to none,  
Whose courage and braveness alone  
caused many battles to be won.

We have beaten the forces of evil  
and carried our flag far and wide,  
Because of our American Warriors,  
our hearts are filled with pride,

Only because of you and the price  
you willingly did pay,  
Only because of you,  
Old Glory still flies today!

---

### MASTER WEAVER'S PLAN

My life is but a weaving  
Between the Lord and me;  
I may not choose the colors—  
He knows what they should be.

For He can view the pattern  
Upon the upper side  
While I can see it only  
On this, the under side.

Sometimes He weaves in sorrow,  
Which seems so strange to me;  
But I will trust His judgment  
And work on faithfully.

'Tis He who fills the shuttle,  
And He knows what is best;  
So I shall weave in earnest,  
And leave to Him the rest.

Not 'til the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Shall God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needed  
In the Weaver's skillful hand

As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned.

~ Benjamin Malachi Franklin

---

### **These Mean You**

A Cheery word, a smiling face,  
A helping hand when due,  
A friendship spanning  
time and space –  
To me, these all mean You!

From the writings of:  
Strickland Gillian

---

### **Master Weaver's Canvas**

Not until the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Shall God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why

That the dark threads were as needed  
In the Master Weaver's hands  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He had planned.

---

### **I have only slipped away into the next room**

Whatever we were together, that we are still.  
Call me by name.

Speak to me in the easy way you always did.

Laugh as we always laughed at  
little jokes we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me -- pray for me.

Let my name be spoken without effort.

Life means all that it ever meant.

It is the same as it ever was.

Why should I be out of your mind  
because I am out of your 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.

---

### **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.*

*There is work still waiting for you,  
so you must not idly stand;  
do it now, while life remaineth -  
you shall rest in God's own 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*

---

There is never a life without sadness,  
There is never a heart free from pain;  
If one seeks in this world for true solace,  
He seeks it forever in vain.

So when to your heart comes the sorrow  
Of losing some dear one you've known  
Tis the touch of God's sickle at harvest  
Since He reaps in the fields  
He has sown.

---

### **The Rose ...**

It is only a tiny rosebud –  
A flower of God's design;  
But I cannot unfold the petals  
With these clumsy hands of mine.  
The secret of unfolding flowers  
Is not known to such as I –  
The flower God opens so sweetly  
In my hands would fade and die.  
If I cannot unfold a rosebud  
This flower of God's design,  
Then how can I think I have wisdom  
To unfold this life of mine?  
So I'll trust in Him for His leading,  
Each moment of every day,  
And I'll look to Him for His guidance  
Each step of the pilgrim way.  
For the pathway that lies before me  
My Heavenly Father knows –  
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments  
Just as He unfolds the rose.

---

### **TO REMEMBER ME**

Give my sight to the man who has never seen a  
sunrise,  
a baby's face, or love in the eyes of a woman.  
Give my heart to a person whose own heart has  
caused nothing but endless days of pain.  
Give my blood to the teen-ager who was pulled  
from the wreckage of his car, so that he might  
live to see his grandchildren play.  
Give my kidneys to one who depends on a  
machine to exist from week to week.  
Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber, and  
nerve

in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weakness', and all prejudice against my fellow man.

Give my sins to the devil.

Give my soul to God.

If, by chance, you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you.

If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

---

### **TO THOSE I LOVE AND THOSE WHO LOVE ME**

When I am gone, release me, let me go...  
I have so many things to see and do.

You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears.  
Be thankful for our many beautiful years.

I gave to 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 traveled on alone.

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,  
then let your grief be comforted by trust.

It's only for a time that we must part,  
so bless the memories that lie 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 me, I'll be near.

And if you listen with your heart, you will hear  
all of my love around you, soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone...  
I'll greet you with a smile, and say –  
"Welcome Home!"

---

### **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 we once shared.  
Miss Me - But Let Me Go.  
For this is a journey that 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 of heart  
Go to the friends we know  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.  
Miss Me - But Let Me Go.

---

### **Tomorrow**

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.

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### **What Cancer Cannot Do**

Cancer is so limited  
It cannot cripple Love  
It cannot shatter Hope  
It cannot corrode Faith  
It cannot destroy Peace  
It cannot kill Friendship  
It cannot suppress Memories  
It cannot silence Courage  
It cannot invade the Soul  
It cannot steal Eternal Life  
It cannot conquer the Spirit

---

### When I Must Leave You

When I must leave you  
for a little while--  
Please do not grieve  
and shed wild tears  
And hug your sorrow to you  
through the years,  
But start out bravely  
with a gallant smile;  
And for my sake  
and in my name  
Live on and do  
all things the same,  
Feed not your loneliness  
on empty days,  
But fill each waking hour  
in useful ways,  
Reach out your hand  
in comfort and cheer  
And I in turn will comfort you  
and hold you near;  
And never, never  
be afraid to die,  
For I am waiting for you in the sky!!

---

### WHEN I'M GONE

When I come to the end of my journey  
And I travel my last weary mile  
Just forget if you can, that I ever frowned  
And remember only the smile.  
Forget unkind words I 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.  
  
Remember I have fought some hard battles  
And won, ere the close of the day.  
Then forget to grieve for my going  
I would not have you sad for a day.  
But in the summer just gather some flowers  
And remember the place where I lay,  
And come in the shade of the evening  
When the sun paints the sky in the west.  
Stand for a few moments beside me  
And remember only my best.

---

I am the resurrection and the life;  
he who believes in Me  
shall live even if he dies,  
and everyone who lives and believes  
in Me shall never die"  
John 11:25-26

---

### 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 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 as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my  
eye,  
for all life, I'd always thought I didn't want to die.  
I had so much to live for and so much yet to do,  
it seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.  
I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and  
the bad,  
I thought of all the love we shared and all the fun  
we had.  
If I could relive yesterday, I thought, just for awhile,  
I'd say goodbye and kiss you and maybe see you  
smile.  
But then I fully realized that this could never be,  
for emptiness and memories would take the place  
of me.  
And when I thought of worldly things that I'd miss  
come tomorrow,  
I thought of you, and when I did, my heart was filled  
with sorrow.  
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, but today will always last,  
and since each day's the same day, there's no  
longing for the past.  
But you have been so faithful, so trusting, and so  
true.  
Though there were times you did some things you  
knew you shouldn't do.  
But you have been forgiven and now at last you're  
free.  
So won't you take my hand and share my life with  
me?  
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.

### Peaceful Retreat

Down a narrow hidden path  
Sought out by Wisdom's eye  
A peaceful place of refuge calls  
To come and rest awhile beside

Listen to the waters  
Falling over the mountains steep  
To gently flow for endless days  
Through eternity's retreat

And on the far horizon  
Of never setting sun  
The harvest of the whitened wheat  
Is very nearly done

As work on earth comes to a close  
Peace will be complete  
Surrounded by the beauty  
Of eternity's retreat

---

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

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### The Dragonfly

Once, in a little pond, in the muddy water under the lily pads, there lived a little water beetle in a community of water beetles. They lived a very simple and comfortable life in the pond with few disturbances and interruptions.

Once in a while, sadness would come to the community when one of their fellow beetles would climb the stem of a lily pad and would never be seen again. They knew when this happened; their friend was dead, gone forever.

Then, one day, one little water beetle felt an irresistible urge to climb up that stem. However, she was determined that she would not leave forever. She would come back and tell his friends what she had found at the top.

When she reached the top and climbed out of the water onto the surface of the lily pad, she was so tired, and the sun felt so warm, that she decided she must take a nap. As she slept, his body changed and when she woke up, she had turned into a beautiful blue-tailed dragonfly with broad wings and a slender body designed for flying. So, fly she did! And, as she soared she saw the beauty of a whole new world and a far superior way of life to what she had never known existed. Then she remembered his beetle friends and how they were thinking by now she was dead. She wanted to go back to tell them and explain to them that she was now more alive than she had ever been before. His life had been fulfilled rather than ended.

But, his new body would not go down into the water. She could not get back to tell his friends the good news. Then she understood that their time would come, when they, too, would know what she now knew. So, she raised his wings and flew off into his joyous new life!

---

### Sleep Sound in Jesus

Sleep sound in Jesus my baby, my dear -  
Angels are watching, they keep you so near.  
Know for His Sake you'll be safe for the night;  
Sleep sound in Jesus – I'll turn off the light.

Sleep sound in Jesus, sweetheart of my heart;  
The dark of the night will not keep us apart.  
When I lay you down in your bed for the night  
He holds you gently till morning is light.

Sleep sound in Jesus, the angels are here –  
They're keeping watch so there's nothing to fear;  
Against any foe they are ready to fight  
So sleep sound in Jesus – I'll turn off the light.

Michael Card

---

### Tis Christmas in Heaven

Tis Christmas in Heaven  
What a beautiful sight;  
It's my first one here,  
Everything is all right.  
The crib is adorned  
With the brilliance of stars;  
Wiseman have come  
from Venus and Mars.  
I've met all our dear ones  
Who preceded us here;  
The reunion was lovely,  
An event full of cheer.  
And tonight we'll all gather  
In reverence and kneel;  
For the babe in the cradle

Up in Heaven is real.  
I think of my family  
That I left behind;  
And I pray that your Christmas  
Is as blessed as mine.  
Please shed no more tears,  
For my soul is at rest;  
Just love one another,  
Live life to its best.  
Yes, it's Christmas in Heaven,  
So I've heard them say  
Yet Christmas in Heaven  
Happens everyday.

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### THE ROSEBUD

On your journey to heaven,  
Oh, littlest of angels,  
I'll forever give thanks,  
You came first to my arms,  
Where you lay in warm sweetness  
For the briefest of moments,  
My name on your bracelet...  
Baby girl of my own.

Not even the rosebud,  
Nor the first crocus petal,  
Could match the soft wonder  
of your small, flowering face...  
Though you lingered, oh briefly,  
Our torn hearts found comfort,  
And your fair, infant presence  
Gave our sorrow a grace.

Etched in our memories,  
To hold and to treasure,  
Are experiences we had not known;  
These you gave, in your innocence,  
To your mother and father;  
And oh, little darling,  
We are richer by far,  
To have held you for a moment,  
Than to never have held you at all.

---

### WHEN GOD CALLS CHILDREN

When God calls little children  
to dwell with him above  
We mortals sometimes question  
the wisdom of his love.  
For no heartache compares with  
the death of one's small child  
who does so much to make our world  
seem wonderful and mild.  
Perhaps God tires of calling  
the aged to his fold  
so he picks a rosebud  
before it can grow old.

God knows how much we need them  
and so he takes but a few  
to make the land of Heaven  
more beautiful to view.  
Believing this is difficult  
still somehow we must try.  
The saddest word mankind knows  
will always be 'goodbye.'  
So when a little child departs,  
we who are left behind  
must realize God loves children.  
Angels are hard to find.

-- Betty Williams

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At that time the disciples  
came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is  
greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"  
And He called a child to Himself  
and set him before them, and said,  
"Truly I say to you, unless you are  
converted and become like children, you  
shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.  
"Whoever then humbles himself  
as this child, he is the greatest in the  
kingdom of heaven.  
"And whoever receives one such child  
in My name receives Me;..."  
"Thus it is not the will of your  
Father who is in heaven that one of  
these little ones perish."

Matt. 18:1-5 & 14

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### Child's Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep;  
I pray the Lord, my soul to keep,  
If I should die before I wake,  
I pray Thee, Lord,  
My soul to take.

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Suffer the little children  
to come unto Me,  
and forbid them not:  
for of such is  
the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:14

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