

# Example: Graveside Service

## Gathering together of family and friends

### Priest/ess:

Let us gather together and give support each to the other. Join hand to hand to form a chain representing our connection to each other. Our willingness to be there for each other during this time.

## Prayer/Statement of Intent

### Priest/ess:

Our lovely earth gives us form and so to it do we return our remains. Let the body of \_\_\_\_\_ once again become a part of the earth.

**Graveside Activity** (Stand near what you will use for the graveside activity — the shovel, a bowl of seeds, coins, rocks, etc).

### Priest/ess:

Gracious Lady who rules over both life and death,

Your daughter/son \_\_\_\_\_ has crossed over to the Summerland.

Help us keep her/him in our hearts so s/he will find her/ his place.  
among the honored ancestors..

Mighty Lord who experiences both life and death,.

Your daughter/son \_\_\_\_\_ has gone to the other world..

Help those who remain find comfort in the natural cycles to keep in touch with that which never dies.

Fire, we thank you for the passion that \_\_\_\_\_ brought to life;.

The sparkle in her/his eyes, the energy in her/his step..

May all these gifts return to thee to find another form..

Water, we thank you for the love that filled \_\_\_\_\_; the joy s/he brought the tears s/he shared.

May all these gifts return to thee to find another form.

Air, we thank you for the ideas that \_\_\_\_\_ shared; the stories s/he told, the lessons s/he taught. May all these gifts return to thee to find another form.

Earth, we thank you for the body that \_\_\_\_\_ inhabited; the work s/he did, the legacy s/he left.

May all these gifts return to thee to find another form.

\_\_\_\_\_, we thank you for sharing your life with us.

May our love for you endure and find a new form to take in our lives.

### Priest/ess:

(Invite people to participate in an activity. This example uses giving seeds to the family to be planted. The immediate family stands behind a basket. Besides the basket is a bag of seeds.)

These seeds represent the continuation of life. We give these seeds as a promise that the memory of \_\_\_\_\_ will be kept alive.

Come forth and take a few seeds, state one thing you will remember about \_\_\_\_\_ and place the seeds in the basket.

## Formal words of parting

### Priest/ess:

As we leave this place may we take with us memories of \_\_\_\_\_. I request that the immediate family stay for a few brief words.

"Merry, meet, merry part, and merry meet again. Bright the cheeks and warm the heart and may the circle never end".

## **Short circling with immediate family**

### **Priest/ess:**

\_\_\_\_\_ is now among the blessed ancestors. While your relationship with him/her will never be the same they will still influence your life. Remember them, especially at Samhain. And may our lady and lord give you the strength to mourn and in time to find joy.

So mote it be.