Prayer for Those Leaving at the End of the Year

Leader: As we come to the end of the school year, we gather to thank God for each other... for the friendships, laughter and tears; for our learning and our growing. As we come together today, we remember those who will be leaving our school. We pray for them, as they journey into the future, that they will be safely held within God’s loving care.

The students and teachers who will be leaving the school are invited to stand before the assembly. Each is presented with a small lighted candle and a copy of the Prayer of St Brendan.

Reader 1: We present you with a lighted candle as a sign of the hope and faith you carry into your future. We also present the Prayer of St Brendan. Brendan was a missionary who left his homeland. He sailed in his fragile boat to foreign lands, taking with him the message of the good news of Jesus Christ. This is his prayer:

Reader 2: 
Beyond these shores
Into the darkness
Beyond these shores
This boat may sail
And if this is the way
Then there will be
A path across this sea.

Reader 3: 
And if I sail beyond
The farthest ocean
Or lose myself in the depths below
Wherever I may go
Your love surrounds me
For You have been before
Beyond these shores.

Leader: We pray for each of you today who are leaving the ‘homeland’ of this school. As you launch out beyond these shores toward your future horizon, may God’s love surround you wherever you may go.

Reader 4: 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 this good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Phil 1:3–6

Leader: May the love of God, the courage of Jesus Christ and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all as you continue your journey of faith.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God!