

House Blessing

By Rev. Kathryn McDowell
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This is an easy and yet very meaningful House Blessing that allows everyone present to participate:

HAVE READY

- One large candle that will be left as a gift to the home owner(s).
- Votive or Tea candles for everyone present [excluding home owner(s)]. A square of in foil to hold them with is a good safety precaution.
- Little stones or slips of paper with words identifying various blessings on them (peace, harmony, love, enthusiasm, success, surprise, health, joy, prosperity, etc.)
If it is a small gathering, it is nice to use the carved/blasted stones with the words. For larger groups, the cost may be prohibitive and slips of nice paper with the printed words work as well.
- Instrumental music in the background is nice. Just keep it low enough for the individual speakers to still be heard.
- A bell or other signal item to call everyone together.

SET-UP

- Place the candles in an attractive arrangement in a central location (living room, dining room, on the patio, etc.) with the large candle in the center.
- Place one stone next to each candle **so the word is NOT visible**. A double circle with the candles and objects is nice. Or place words on folded papers in a basket.
- Everyone gathers at this central location first.
- Light the large center candle to begin.
- The Coordinator does an initial Welcome and Opening Blessing for the event.

CANDLE

- After the Opening, the Coordinator invites everyone [except the home owner(s)] to take a candle. As each person lights their candle from the central candle, the Coordinator explains the meaning of the Light in this home and these people's lives. You could also do a reading during this time, either with the explanation or in place of it.

WORDS

- The Coordinator states that each person present is there because of their love and support of the owners, and that their words of blessing come from that same love and support. Then have each person [except the home owner(s)] select the stone or paper with the word on it - without looking at the word.

BLESSINGS

- Everyone moves away from the initial table where the candles and objects were set up (if there is room). The participants bring their lit candle and their word object.
- The homeowners stand in the middle of a circle made by all the others.
- Each person then offers their own blessing to the couple/family using the word they drew to focus their declaration for the house and its occupants. So, say my word is "Laughter" and I state: "I bless this house with the laughter of God."
- Go around the circle until each person has given their personal blessing, focusing on the attribute in the word they selected.
 - It is best to have no more than 8-10 people do this. If it is a large gathering, get suggestions from the homeowners in advance for 6-8 people they would like to speak their blessing out loud. All others will do theirs silently as shown below.
- After the verbal blessing are given, the owners are asked to be seated in the central location where the ceremony began. The Coordinator instructs the guests to:
 - Go into all parts of the house / property (inside or outside) with their candle and word. Don't forget the garage, yard, and doorframes!
 - Remind them to NOT open dresser drawers, closets, or anything else that would be very private.
 - As they walk through the property into the areas where they are personally led to go, they will continue to bless it and its owner(s) in silence with the Light and with the Word.
 - Additionally, participants are asked to leave their word object in a place of their choosing on the property. Over time, as the owner(s) finds these objects, they will be blessed again by the words written on them and remember afresh the love and support of this Blessing of Friends.
- Establish a timeframe for the walk-through blessing dependant on the number of people present and the size of the property. At the end of the time allowed, have a signal (bell, special music, or a song or chant that everyone knows and would join in singing, etc.) to call everyone back to the starting point where the owners are.

CLOSURE

- The Coordinator returns to the starting point and asks the owner(s) to stand. Then the signal is given for everyone to return to that place and to once again encircle the owner(s). Participants may be invited to state (briefly) any final blessings. (Watch your time on this one.)
- The Coordinator gives a Closing Blessing to the evening.
- The votive candles are extinguished. (Please do this gently and ceremoniously. Don't be the Big Bad Wolf "with a huff and a puff..." We don't want to spray wax all over the house!
- There's lots of hugging and stuff - and probably food!