

## Litany of Farewell

**Barth:** A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals and families come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we say farewell to Rob Burdette, transitional pastor, whose time as our pastor has come to an end.

**Rob: I thank Shalom Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last two years. I thank you for accepting my leadership. I recall with joy the many things we have been able to accomplish together and with sadness the things we were not able to do. I ask your understanding and forgiveness for the mistakes I made and for the times I let you down.**

**Congregation:** We receive your thankfulness, and we offer our forgiveness for any failures. We accept that you now leave us to minister elsewhere. Your influence on us will not leave us, even though you depart from us. We express gratitude for your time among us and ask your forgiveness for our shortcomings and sometimes flagging faith.

**Rob: I forgive you your failures and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to the Christ we are called to serve.**

**Barth:** Do you, the members and friends of Shalom Church, now release Rob from the duties of transitional pastor?

**Congregation: We do, with the help of God.**

**Barth:** Do you, Rob, release Shalom Church from turning to you and depending on you?

**Rob: I do with the help of God.**

**Barth:** Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here at Shalom Church?

**Rob: I do with the help of God.**

**Barth:** Let us pray.

**Congregation: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future, which rests in your care. During our time together, we have experienced laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we carry these cherished memories with us in new directions until the time when we are completely one with you and with one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen**

**Barth:** Go now, Rob, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen

## James 1:17-27

17Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

19You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. 21Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

## Santiago 1:17-27

17 todo lo bueno y perfecto que se nos da, viene de arriba, de Dios, que creó los astros del cielo. Dios es siempre el mismo: en él no hay variaciones ni oscurecimientos. 18 Él, porque así lo quiso, nos dio vida mediante el mensaje de la verdad, para que seamos los primeros frutos de su creación. Necesidad de poner en práctica el mensaje

19 Recuerden esto, queridos hermanos: todos ustedes deben estar listos para escuchar; en cambio deben ser lentos para hablar y para enojarse. 20 Porque el hombre enojado no hace lo que es justo ante Dios. 21 Así pues, despójense ustedes de toda impureza y de la maldad que tanto abunda, y acepten humildemente el mensaje que ha sido sembrado; pues ese mensaje tiene poder para salvarlos.

22 Pero no basta con oír el mensaje; hay que ponerlo en práctica, pues de lo contrario se estarían engañando ustedes mismos. 23 El que solamente oye el mensaje, y no lo practica, es como el hombre que se mira la cara en un espejo: 24 se ve a sí mismo, pero en cuanto da la vuelta se olvida de cómo es. 25 Pero el que no olvida lo que oye, sino que se fija atentamente en la ley perfecta de la libertad, y permanece firme cumpliendo lo que ella manda, será feliz en lo que hace.

26 Si alguno cree ser religioso, pero no sabe poner freno a su lengua, se engaña a sí mismo y su religión no sirve de nada. 27 La religión pura y sin mancha delante de Dios el Padre es ésta: ayudar a los huérfanos y a las viudas en sus aflicciones, y no mancharse con la maldad del mundo.