

Debbie: Sara, may you carry with you the experiences from Shalom that have made you grow, opened your heart, challenged your thinking, encouraged you to love, caused you to be compassionate, deepened your faith, made you laugh. May you forgive the experiences from Shalom that hurt you or caused you pain, times when trust was broken or unkindness felt. Remember the goodness of community, of risking love. Remember the faithfulness of God, the fulfillment in following Jesus.

All: Sara and Alahna, we leave you with these words of Jesus to his disciples at a time of transition: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.” Carry our love and our blessing as you continue your journeys.

Call to Worship

Piano side: Lord, you know us better than we know ourselves.

Organ side: You knew us when we were only a collection of cells in our mothers' wombs.

Piano: You know when we stand up, and when we sit down.

Organ: You know the paths we will follow, the roadblocks, the sudden sharp curves, the open roads.

Piano: The days of our lives were written in your book of life long before we even breathed, and will be there when we've taken our last breaths.

Organ: You know our words before we say them, our dreams before we dream them.

ALL: We praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

¿A dónde podría ir, lejos de tu espíritu?
¿A dónde huiría, lejos de tu presencia?
Si yo subiera a las alturas de los cielos,
allí estás tú;
y si bajara a las profundidades de la tierra,
también estás allí;
si levantara el vuelo hacia el oriente,
o habitara en los límites del mar occidental,
aun allí me alcanzaría tu mano;
¡tu mano derecha no me soltaría!
Si pensara esconderme en la oscuridad,
o que se convirtiera en noche la luz que me rodea,
la oscuridad no me ocultaría de ti,
y la noche sería tan brillante como el día.
¡La oscuridad y la luz son lo mismo para ti!

Piano: Where can we go that your guiding spirit and loving presence aren't present already?

Organ: If we rise as high as heaven, you are there, and if we plumb the depths of the earth, you are there.

Piano: If we fly as far as the morning and settle on the shores of the most distant sea, even there your hand will be holding ours tight.

Organ: We think we can hide in the darkness, but to you, the night is as bright as the day.

**ALL: Lord, you know us better than we know ourselves.
We praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made.
We thank you for your promise that you will never leave us.**

Colosenses 3:12-17

¹² Dios los ama a ustedes y los ha escogido para que pertenezcan al pueblo santo. Revístanse de sentimientos de compasión, bondad, humildad, mansedumbre y paciencia.

¹³ Sopórtense unos a otros, y perdónense si alguno tiene una queja contra otro. Así como el Señor los perdonó, perdonen también ustedes.

¹⁴ Sobre todo revístanse de amor, que es el lazo de la perfecta unión.

¹⁵ Y que la paz de Cristo reine en sus corazones, porque con este propósito los llamó Dios a formar un solo cuerpo. Y sean agradecidos.

¹⁶ Que el mensaje de Cristo permanezca siempre en ustedes con todas sus riquezas. Instrúyanse y amonéstense unos a otros con toda sabiduría. Con corazón agradecido canten a Dios salmos, himnos y cantos espirituales.

¹⁷ Y todo lo que hagan o digan, háganlo en el nombre del Señor Jesús, dando gracias a Dios el Padre por medio de él.

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Litany of Blessing and Release for Pastor Sara Dick's Ministry

Debbie: Sara, today we gather to celebrate our life together at Shalom, the ministry you have shared with us and the gifts you have so creatively offered to all of us in worship, through your passions and your sense of humor, in the experiences of our lives, through your teaching and care.

Rachel: It is a time to offer our thanks to God for the blessing of your ministry at Shalom and also for the ways you will continue to express God's love in your life, your work, and your relationships as you continue your journey.

Congregation: Sara, as the people who have been blessed by your ministry, we give you our deepest gratitude. You challenged and pushed us, you laughed and cried with us, and together we worked at living out our faith. Now, as we tell you and Alahna good-bye, it is with gratitude and love.

Jr. and Sr. High Youth: Sara, thank you for being with us, for listening to us, for giving us space and opportunities to be ourselves, to figure some things out, to examine what we feel and believe, to express and challenge our faith. As we say good-bye, we offer our thanks and blessing.

Jr. and Sr. High Leaders: Sara, as those who worked with you to plan activities and faith -deepening experiences for our children and youth, we offer our thanks for your leadership and trust. May you continue to feel God's presence in your life.

Congregation: We have gratefully received your ministry with us and now we also release you from your responsibilities as Associate Pastor. We will refrain from asking you to give leadership at weddings and memorial services or other times when pastoral care may be needed. You will continue to be in our prayers even as we are separated by this change in your role.

Rachel: Sara, I have been grateful for this time we have spent together on the pastoral team and the ministry we have shared, and now is the time to release you from those duties and relationships. I offer my blessing as you end this venture and begin a new one.

Sara: Shalom Mennonite Church, I release you from your loyalty to me as your Associate Pastor and as a part of your pastoral team. I will no longer provide leadership to the youth nor perform the duties of Associate Pastor. This congregation will continue to be in my prayers even as we are separated by this change in my role.

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