

**This information brought to you by your Association of Unity Churches..**

## **"HOME BLESSING"**

Bless this house, O Lord, we pray,  
Make it safe by night and day;  
Bless these walls, so firm and stout,  
Keeping want and trouble out;  
Bless the roof and chimneys tall  
Let Thy peace lie over all;  
Bless this door, that it may prove  
Ever open to joy and love.

Bless these windows shining bright,  
Letting in God's heavenly light;  
Bless the hearth ablazing there,  
With smoke ascending like a prayer;  
Bless the folk who dwell within;  
Keep them pure and free from sin;  
Bless us all that we may be  
Fit, O Lord, to dwell with Thee,  
Bless us all that one day we  
May dwell, O Lord, with Thee.

## **KITCHEN**

We consecrate this room to the preparation of nourishment. All the food prepared here is blessed as it is prepared, so that it will carry nourishment for the soul as well as the body.

We are mindful of the Master's admonition:

"Man shall not live by bread alone."

May the tasks done in this room be as a labor of love. May this place represent a workshop of love where the bounty of God's provision is made pleasant to the taste.

We give thanks that this place is a haven of prosperity, that those who dwell here may enjoy food fitting for a child of a Heavenly King.

May this thought be the prayer for her who presides over this kitchen:

Lord of all pots and pans and things,  
Since I've no time to be  
A saint by doing lovely deeds  
Or watching late with Thee,  
Or dreaming in the dawn light,  
Or storming heaven's gates,  
Make me a saint by getting meals  
And washing up the plates!

Although I must have Martha's hands  
I have a Mary mind,  
And when I black the boots and shoes,  
Thy sandals, Lord, I find!  
I think of how they trod the earth,  
What time I scrub the floor;  
Accept this meditation, Lord!  
I haven't time for more.

Warm all the kitchen with Thy love,  
And light it with Thy peace!  
Forgive me all my worrying  
And make my grumbling cease!  
Thou who didst love to give men food  
In a room or by the sea,  
Accept this service that I do--  
I do it unto Thee!

## **DINING ROOM**

We consecrate this room to the partaking of nourishment and the fellowship of the board.  
May the meals eaten here not be done in haste, but seasoned with good fellowship and cheerfulness.

May we come from this place each mealtime, strengthened both in body and in soul.

Here are the inspired words of Kahlil Gibran on eating and drinking:

"Would that you could live on the fragrance of the earth, and like an air plant be sustained by the light.

"But since you must kill to eat, and rob the newly born of its mother's milk to quench your thirst, let it then be an act of worship,

"And let your board stand as an altar on which the pure and the innocent of forest and plain are sacrificed for that which is purer and still more innocent in man.

"When you kill a beast say to him in your heart,

"By the same power that slays you, I too am slain; and I too shall be consumed.

"For the law that delivered you into my hand shall deliver me into a mightier hand.

"Your blood and my blood is naught but the sap that feeds the tree of heaven.

"And when you crush an apple with your teeth, say to it in your heart,

"Your seeds shall live in my body.

"And the buds of your tomorrow shall blossom in my heart, "And your fragrance shall be my breath,

"And together we shall rejoice through all the seasons.

"And in the autumn, when you gather the grapes of your vineyards for the winepress, say in your heart,

"I too am a vineyard, and my fruit shall be gathered

for the winepress,

"And like new wine I shall be kept in eternal vessels.

"And in winter, when you draw the wine, let there be in your heart a song for each cup;

"And let there be the song of remembrance for the autumn days, and for the vineyard, and for the winepress."

We consecrate this living room to the art of living--to expanding the consciousness of abundant life, ever mindful of the words of our Lord:

"I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly."

The living room is the altar of the home, for here the family gathers to share its love. This room is the matrix of love for the home--and love is the essence of life.

I may speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but if I have no love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal;

I may prophesy, fathom all mysteries and secret lore, I may have such absolute faith that I can move hills from their place, but if I have not love, I count for nothing;

I may distribute all I possess in charity, I may give my body to be burnt, but if I have not love, I make nothing of it.

Love is very patient, very kind. Love knows no jealousy; love makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful; love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient. Love never disappears. As for prophesying, it will be superseded; as for "tongues", they will cease; as for knowledge, it will be superseded. For we only know bit by bit, and we only prophesy bit by bit; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will be superseded.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I argued like a child; now that I am a man, I am done with childish ways.

At present we only see the baffling reflections in a mirror, but then it will be face to face; at present I am learning bit by bit; but then I shall understand, as all along I have myself been understood

Thus "faith and hope and love last on, these three," but the greatest of all is love.

This is a room of TENDERNESS, where each person feels free to say "I love you" to the other members of the family. It is a place where APPRECIATION finds expression.

This is a room of COURTESY and COMMON POLITENESS. Impatience and complaint are removed from this place, and understanding prevails.

This is a room of SOCIABILITY, where wholesome and pleasant entertainment prevail and are enjoyed.

This is a room where UNDERSTANDING of each other's temperaments is a hallmark. It is a place of self-control.

This is a room where HONESTY, TRUTHFULNESS, and STRAIGHTFORWARDNESS are evidenced. It is a place of trust.

This is the LIVING room, where life is enjoyed and understood.

## **BEDROOM (OR ROOMS)**

We consecrate these rooms to rest and refreshment. In the quiet of the night hours, this

is a place for the regathering of strength, that with the dawn we be well prepared to serve our God and our fellowmen.

May the cares and the burdens of the day be left outside this room, that the providential care of God may be had without interference.

My heart, The sun hath set.  
Night paths With dew are wet.  
Sleep comes Without regret;  
Stars rise When sun is set.  
All's well. God loves thee yet,  
Heart, smile, Sleep sweet, nor fret.

May we be mindful that this place is more than wood and nails and mortar. For a house to be a home, it must have a climate. We anticipate the climate of this home to be one of the reverence and the joy of prayer, and the deeds which result from prayer:

A house is built of logs and stone Of tiles and posts and piers;  
A home is built of loving deeds That stand a thousand years.

We know that each room does not need an altar of wood or stone. The spirit of prayer prevails in the hearts of those who dwell here, and each becomes a living altar.

Lord, this humble house we'd keep  
Sweet with play and calm with sleep.  
Help us so that we may give  
Beauty to the lives we live.  
Let Thy love and let Thy grace  
Shine upon this dwelling place.

And in a sense of personal consecration for you whose home this is, may I close with the blessings that hung for many years in the master bedroom of Stan Hywet Hall:

This house my kingdom is,  
So shall I bar all thoughts or words that bring inharmony.  
Love shall adorn it like a brilliant star,  
And faith and hope my guiding words shall be.  
My happy song shall echo from the walls,  
My cheerful smile shall keep it fair and bright.  
And warmth and welcome shall pervade the halls,  
So all who dwell herein shall know delight, and call it home.

Amen.

