Lights out. Pause. Complete silence.

Officiant says: Out of the darkness came the light.

Officiant lights three yellow candles in candelabrum naming: Beta...Sigma...Phi.

Officiant continues: It shineth and shall shine in our hearts forever.

SONG

Tune: *"When Day is Done"*

The day is done and we must part from friends
so dear,
We clasp your hand and bid a fond adieu.
We'll treasure, forever, these friendships
far and near,
Enshrined in our hearts we will hold them close,
To you be true.

As days go by we'll send to you our
thoughts sincere,
And fondly hope that we shall meet again.
We pray to Him who is above to keep you near,
And let us walk with you down Friendship's lane.

Officiant continues: Dearly Beloved: The sun goes down upon these hours of bright companionship. Here we have spoken the word of Light, which is Love, and here we have exchanged the gifts of Love which are Life, Learning, Friendship.

Here we have before us the bright symbols of our Sorority: the glowing Torch, the lighted candles.

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But the hour comes when candles must be snuffed and when the Torch must glow separately in our hearts and be reflected only as it shines in and about our lives and purposes.

The hour has come to clasp each other's hand and say: "We part but we are together forever in the Light, whose word is Love, and whose gift we share alike in giving or receiving."

The stars of gratitude gleam in our eyes. They fill the blue heaven of our humility.

Once more, remembering all that here has been, and yet shall be, between us, we touch with reverence the symbols of our sisterhood.

Officiant takes one of lighted candles and hands it to first of three attendants, saying:

Accept the gift of Beta.

First Attendant receives lighted candle and holds it toward the members who are standing in semicircle.

First Attendant: I give to you this symbol of Life – of that one Life which flows through the channels of our souls, passing from one to another, in crystal streams of Beauty, Goodness, Truth.

Life is to be lived. We do not possess it, but we are possessed by it. We are green leaves upon a tree – the Tree of Life. A sacred fulfillment is this Life. A usage given us of energies, eternal, a temporal taste of immortality.

Look well, therefore, to this day. For it is Life – the very Life of Life.

First Attendant pauses a second, then retires to ritual table and continues to hold her lighted candle.

Officiant then takes second candle, hands it to Second Attendant.

Officiant: Accept the gift of Sigma.

Second Attendant receives the candle and holds it toward the members.

Second Attendant: I give to you this symbol of learning – the path that leads to wisdom. All learning is vain unless it lift the Life and guide the heart. We are the young fruits clinging to the Tree of Life. Learning is the sun that shall ripen us into wisdom. Our teachers are all people and all experience. Who has not learned from failure what was not taught by success? Who has not found a prince's heart beneath a shabby coat?

Such is the path of Learning. We travel it together, though each path seem separate. It has in truth but one direction and one end. It leads us to the Light, whose word is Love.

Second Attendant pauses a moment, then she also retires to ritual table and continues to hold her lighted candle.

Officiant now takes third candle and hands it to Third Attendant.

Officiant: Accept the gift of the great golden Phi.

Third Attendant receives it and holds it toward the members.

Third Attendant: I give to you this symbol of our most radiant garment–the garment of our Friendship. Every kindness we have done to one another is a golden thread to glorify it. Every greeting we have spoken in the name of Love gleams from its fabric.

Friends are the flowers upon the Tree of Life. And oh, we have such yearning need to flower. In the sweetness of this flower there is laughter, and peace, all thoughts, all joys, all expectations shared to increase–all sorrow, all trouble shared to surcease.

What speech can tell its magic? What word so delicate it could describe this flower? What touch so careful it will not blur the brightness of this garment of our radiance?

Let us revere it then with our silence, letting that silence touch and bless our every friend.

A moment's pause of full silence while attendant retires.

Then Officiant continues: All things return to the source. The day ends that it may dawn again, and in that new day we shall reassemble, made worthier by today and by each today between now and then.

The three candles are then used to light the large Torch, and returned to the candelabrum. The Officiant, using a candle snuffer, puts out the first candle and says:

We need you as a symbol of Beta no longer, for your gift, the one of Life, is ours to live each day. Its Light shall not go out forever.

She puts out second candle, saying:

We need you as a symbol of Sigma no longer, for your gift, the path of Learning, lies before us and our eyes behold the way. Its light shall not go out forever.

Puts out third candle, saying:

We need you as a symbol of Phi no longer, for your gift, the glad and radiant garment of Friendship, is ours to wear, a garment woven of the Light, and the Light shall not go out forever.

We go now, each to our separate place, carrying with us our own small flame lighted by the great Torch burning here, and the light shall not go out forever.

Members file by table, taking small candle, lighting it at the great Torch, and pass out of room.

SONG
Tune: *"Till We Meet Again"*

Smile the while we bid you each adieu.
As the Days go by we'll think of you,
We give you now our candlelight–
With Friendship's flame that burns so bright–

Let it guide you safely on your way,
Treasure in your hearts for now and aye
Our Beta Sigma Phi, dear friend,
Till we meet again.