A PASSAGE TO LIGHT
A simple ceremony for the recently deceased

Refuge and Awakening Mind

namo

I take refuge in all the sources of refuge,
The three jewels — buddha, dharma and sangha, and
The three roots — guru, deity and protector.
In order to lead all beings to buddhahood
I bring to mind the mind of awakening.

(Repeat three times.)

Creating the Presence of Amitabha

e ma ho

Wonderful Buddha Limitless Light,
And Great Compassion, Great Power, and others,
Buddhas, bodhisattvas beyond reckoning,
I pray to you with single-minded devotion.
Inspire in me the awakening of Limitless Light.

om amidheva hri

(Repeat the mantra 21 or 100 times.)

Then repeat the dedication prayers, praying that the good of performing this ceremony serves to help all beings in their spiritual paths.

After the ceremony, sit quietly for a few minutes and let your mind, body and heart absorb what has transpired. There may well be a mixture of feelings, sadness, joy, regret, relief, and so on. Don't try to sort them out. Instead, let them all be there, swirling around like autumn leaves in the wind, and know that, whatever thoughts, feelings and sensations may arise, you are at peace, and your relationship with the deceased is complete.

This ceremony for when someone close to you dies was created by Ken McLeod in 2018 in Windsor, California in response to numerous requests for a simple ceremony that people could do on their own. The prayers are adapted from Karma Chakmé's Amitabha practice texts. The commentary is nothing more than a simple guide to a possible way of approaching this ceremony. If there is any merit in what I have written here, may it help others find a path to freedom.