Terms of Endearment

I've been thinking lately about that old 1983 movie Terms of Endearment.
https://youtu.be/OCOZ9Jnq6H4?is=f-OexHld-rnkVnOJ

Emma (Debra Winger) is moving hundreds of miles, with her husband and son. After she and her mother (Shirley MacLaine) have a tearful goodbye, Emma asks her husband Flap (Jeff Daniels) to pull away slowly. He puts the pedal to the floor, kicking up dust as he speeds away, with Emma hanging out of the window, waving. Clearly, Flap thought he was being funny, but there was more going on. The act revealed the dynamics of the family, and their complicated relationships.

Last night, my dear husband Joe arrived at our new home in Michigan. He rushed off in his EV, with our little dog Vicar, on Sunday after his last service with his congregation in Brookline, MA. His mom and her sister were there at the new house, waiting for him.

Clearly the situations are completely different in so many ways, but there are three similarities I can't help thinking about:

First, I'm being taken away because my husband got a good job in a field that often requires moving great distances. Second, relationships are complex: I know many are sad that I'm leaving, and also that some are glad to see me go. And third, I feel like I'm getting rushed off, even as I try to savor the poignancy of the leaving.

I hope you'll be around this Sunday, June 21, for my final sermon, and Sunday, June 28, for my final goodbye, a short service followed by brunch. Help me NOT be rushed off, leaving you in a cloud of dust.

In Peace,
Rev Denis