Odyssey's End

Words and Music: Gary McGath, Copyright 2009 For background, see http://ulysses.jpl.nasa.gov/

For years you have travelled, for millions of miles, You've become very nearly a friend, But time takes its toll both on man and machine, And your odyssey's come to an end.

Nobody expected you'd travel so long, How much you'd find out through the years, And though we know you can't feel fear or regret, We now watch your last readout through tears.

Bridge 1:

Your design may be ancient, the latest can do so much more. But you've told us such stories, brought secrets from space to our door. Your heir will be newer and see things you never could see, But whatever may come, there can't be one like you for me.

I'll always remember the thrill of the launch On the day you departed for space, The day your first signal came in from afar And we knew you had reached your homeplace.

Bridge 2:

You lived past expectations, your data continued to flow, But that all things must end is a fact everyone comes to know. We once could revive you when you'd gone to sleep and were still, But there's no more to do, nothing's left in our grasp or our skill.

You always will glide through the silence and cold Long after your messages cease.

Till the day that we follow to find other worlds,

You'll circle in undisturbed peace.