

Thanksgiving Service

We are here today to give thanks for *N*, with *his/her* family and friends, and to support *his/her* parents in their responsibilities with prayer and love. God became one of us in Jesus, and understands all that surrounds the arrival and upbringing of children.

It is God's purpose that children should know love within the stability of their home, grow in faith, and come at last to the eternal city where his love reigns supreme.

The works of the Lord are great:
his mercy endures for ever.

Mary gave birth to a child and called him Jesus:
he will save his people from their sins.

He will be called the Prince of Peace:
his kingdom will last for ever.

Loving God,
you hold all things in life
and call us into your kingdom of peace;
help us to walk the path of your truth
and fill our lives with gratitude and faith,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thanksgiving and Blessing

Parents only...

Do you receive *N*
as a gift from God?
We do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God
and seek his blessing?
We do.

God our creator,
we thank you for the wonder of new life
and for the mystery of human love.
We thank you for all whose support and
skill
surround and sustain the beginning of life.
We thank you that we are
known to you by name
and loved by you from all eternity.

We thank you for Jesus Christ,
who has opened to us the way of love.
We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

What name have you given these
children?

A parent replies
His/her name is N.

As Jesus took children in his arms
and blessed them,
so now we ask God's blessing on *N*.
Heavenly Father, we praise you for *her*
birth;
surround *her* with your blessing
that *she* may know your love,
be protected from evil,
and know your goodness all *her* days.

The Congregation say...

**May *s/he* learn to love all that is true,
grow in wisdom and strength
and, in due time,
come through faith and baptism
to the fullness of your grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The minister prays for the parents

May God the Father of all
bless *N and N* and give *them* grace
to love and care for *N*.
May God give *them* wisdom,
patience and faith, help *them* to
provide for *Ns* needs
and, by *their* example, reveal the love
and truth that are in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Giving of the Gospel

Receive this book.
It is the good news of God's love.
Take it as your guide.

To the Godparents and Sponsors

Will you love, encourage, support and
pray for this family as *N and N* seek to
bring up *N* in the Christian faith.
With the help of God, we will.

To the wider congregation

Will you do all that you can to help and
support this family?
With the help of God, we will.

Concluding Prayer

the whole congregation say

**God our creator,
we thank you for the gift of this child,
entrusted to our care.
May we be patient and understanding,
ready to guide and to forgive,
so that through our love
they may come to know your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**