

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF A CHILD

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 minister asks the parents*

Do you receive *this child* as a gift from God?

**We do.**

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

**We do.**

*The minister says*

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.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

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 *N*'s birth;  
surround *him/her* with your blessing  
that *he/she* may know your love,  
be protected from evil,  
and know your goodness all *his/her* days.

**All May *he/she* 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 *these parents*  
and give them grace to love and care for *this child*.  
May God give them wisdom, patience and faith,  
help them to provide for their *child's* needs  
and, by *their* example,  
reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

*A copy of a Children's Bible is presented, with these words*

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

*The minister may address the wider family, friends and congregation and say*

Will you do all that you can to help and support this family?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

*This prayer is said by the parents*

**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  
*he/she* may come to know your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**All Amen.**