

Castle Church – Thanksgiving For A New Child

This is the thanksgiving service that would be used if you decide this form of service is more appropriate. Please read them together before the vicar comes to see you together. They will form the basis of much of the discussion.

NOTES

The parts in red are the words the parents and godparents would say

The parts in dark blue are the parts that one of, or the whole church family, would say.

The parts in purple are the parts the vicar would say

The parts in green are just a few notes of explanation for you – no one says them!

The first thing we do is to read this passage from the bible that talks about the fact that Jesus welcomes children and that all of us need to come to God in humility like a child, depending on His goodness to us.

"People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Luke 18.15-17

This is a prayer thanking God that He has given you the wonderful gift of this new child in your family.

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of life that you have given to all of us. As we come before you today, we thank you for the safe arrival of *Name of child*. We pray that being nourished with all goodness, he/she may grow in body, mind and soul until she comes to the fullness of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We now pray for you as a family as you try to bring your child up in the best way possible

Heavenly Father, whose Son shared the life of an earthly home: bless *Name of child* and help all the family – *here we name all of you* to live together in your love. Teach them to serve you and each other, and make them always ready to show your love to those in need; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now is your opportunity to commit yourselves to being good parents. You would say this prayer together.

God our Father, in giving us *put your child's name here*, you have shown us your love. Help us to be trustworthy parents. Make us patient and understanding, that all our children may be sure of our love and grow up to be happy and responsible; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

One of the church family at Castle Church will come and present you with a gift of a copy of one of the true stories we find about Jesus in the bible. They will say these words to you:

This book contains the Good News of God's love. May you read it, and learn from it how you and your family can discover the good life here on earth, and come to share in eternal life, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Another member of the church family will now pray for you as parents saying:

Father in heaven, bless *put your names here*, that they may cherish their children; make them wise and understanding, to help them as they grow, and surround this family with the light of your truth and the warmth of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Finally, everyone in church will say this prayer, thanking God for the way He gives us gifts in mind and body. It is a prayer in which we thank God for who we are as individuals.

O God, our heavenly Father, we thank you for the wonderful way our bodies are made. We praise you for each breath we take, each step we take; for the gift of sight and the power to read; for the minds that can observe and store up what they see. We thank you for hands that are skillful in doing work, and for all the creative arts within us. Above all, we praise you that our bodies are the temples of your own Spirit and that we are made in your image. Father, we give you praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.