

Woughton Ecumenical Parish



Service of Thanksgiving, Naming and Blessing

INTRODUCTION

Minister: We have come here today to say 'Thank you' to God for the birth of *N*; to name *them* publicly in the presence of God; to ask God to bless *them*, now and in the years to come, and to pray for *their* family and all who care for *them*.

OPENING HYMN

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Minister: In the beginning
God made the world,

light and dark, shape and void,
height and depth, to tell of love.
So God's love is shown
And God says it is good.

Minister: In land and sea,
in plant and seed,
in growth and decay,
God's love is shown

All: And God says it is good.

Minister: In creatures great and small,
in movement and stillness,
in birth and death,
God's love is shown

All: And God says it is good.

Minister: In woman and man, in joy and
sorrow,
in laughter and tears,
God's love is shown

All: And God says it is good.

Minister: In the gift of new life, in signs of
hope,
in the children we are given,
God's love is shown

All: And God says it is good.

Minister: So let us celebrate and give
thanks for the gift of *N*. All of us
here today wish to share in *their*
joy, so we join in saying a prayer
of thanks:

**All: Thank you Lord for *N*.
Thank you Lord
for the joy *they* bring.
Thank you Lord
that *they are* precious to you
and will always be held
in your love. Amen**

THE NAMING

Minister: Our Christian name is important to all of us. It is our very own personal name. In the Bible a person's name had a special meaning. You will have had a particular reason for choosing the names you have given to *your child*. As a sign that *they are* special to you, I now ask you to name *them*.

A parent says the child's name aloud for all to hear.

Minister: *(placing a hand on child's head)*
In the sight of God I name you *N*. This is the name by which you are known to your family, your friends and to God.

READING(S) *Mark 10:13-16*

Minister: In the Bible we read of God's love and care for children.
Hear these words from Mark's Gospel:

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him bless them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "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." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

The family may choose a second reading and the minister may give a short address.

THE COMMITMENT

The parent/s and Godparents stand with the minister.

The congregation stands.

The minister says to the parent/s:

Minister: Do you thank God for the gift of *N*, and commit yourselves to God in fulfilling the responsibilities of parenthood?

Parent/s: **I/ We do.**

Minister: Do you promise to do everything you can to bring up *N* in a secure and loving home?

Parent/s: **I/ We do.**

The minister says to the Godparents:

Minister: Do you commit yourselves to build a relationship of trust with *N*, and do you promise to support and encourage *these* parent/s as they bring *N* up?

Godparents: **We do.**

Minister: May the Lord give you grace faithfully to carry out the promises you have made this day: may he grant you joy and patience, love and peace.

The minister says to the congregation:

Minister: Will you support and encourage *these* parent/s and God-parents in the promises they have made?

All: **We will.**

ACT OF BLESSING

Minister: As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them so now we ask God's blessing on *N*. *N*, the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

All: **N, the Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen.**

The certificate may be presented at this point

PRAYERS

This prayer may be said by the parent/s:

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

Minister: Jesus taught us to call God our Father,
And so in faith and trust we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen	Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today, our daily bread Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen
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Minister: We pray for N and all children among us.

All **God, our Father,
we pray that all children may grow up healthy, happy and secure.
May their homes be places of love and laughter, and may they come to know your love for them. Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

The minister says this, or another, blessing:

Minister: The love of the Lord Jesus draw *you* to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen *you* in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill *your* hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among *you* and remain with *you* always.

All: **Amen.**

The congregation at this church frequently pray for the children who are blessed here, and their names appear in our monthly magazine. Our Parish parent and toddler group, ABC, meets weekly in term time: the minister can give you further details.

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