

*Service of Thanksgiving for:*

*Welcome and introduction*

NN would like to welcome family and friends to this special occasion in which we celebrate the miracle of life.

This is a ceremony in which we express our love and thanks for the gift of **N**, *son/ daughter* of **N**.

We pray for God's blessing upon him/her, and hope that s/he will grow into faith and respond to his/her calling.

We acknowledge the warmth and love of her family, and we pray **N** will come to know the many wondrous ways of faith and life.

*We ask for the N Grandparents to come up and light two candles, One representing each family.*

So, let us celebrate the miracle of life, and recognise the goodness of God.

Life is a gift  
It is not earned  
It is not bought  
It is not made  
It is given to us  
It is a gift from God

*Reading from Mark 10: 13-16*

Jesus blesses little children:

Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.

*Reflective reading:*

Children learn what they live

If children live with criticism  
-they learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility  
-they learn to fight.

If children live with ridicule  
-they learn to be shy.

If children live with shame  
-they learn to feel guilty.

If children live with tolerance  
-they learn to be patient.

If children live with encouragement  
-they learn confidence.

If children live with praise  
-they learn to appreciate.

If children live with security  
-they learn to have faith.

If children live with approval  
 -they learn to like themselves.  
 If children live with acceptance and friendship  
 -they learn to find love.  
 (Author unknown)

### ***An act of promise by the parents***

It is fitting that, as an expression and focus of thanksgiving, we should ask N's parents to make appropriate promises with respect to their relationship with their son/daughter.

*(To the parents)*

N, do you promise, as far as you are able, to build your family life on love and respect, on truth and forgiveness, on tolerance and encouragement, on fairness and security?

*Parents:* Yes, we do.

*Priest*

And do you also promise to do your best to encourage N to become herself, and choose her own path in life. To value human relationships and appreciate the gift of life with all its happiness and pain, to strive for the best in whatever she chooses.

*Parents:* Yes we do.

\*\*Parents of N to light child's Candle from their Family candles.

### **The Godparents**

N have asked N to act as godparents to N

Do you, N, as godparents, pledge your support of N in their role as parents; and do you promise, so far as you are able, to stand by N throughout her growth to full maturity?

*Response:* We will.

### **Family and Friends' response:**

And will you N family and friends, do all you are able to support and encourage N as they seek to nurture and care for N?

*Response:* We will.

### **The blessing**

N, The Lord bless you and watch over you;  
 The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
 The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.  
 Amen.

### **Prayer of thanksgiving**

*Priest/Celebrant*

For the gift of life,  
 For the glory and wonder of the world  
 For the world-wide human family.  
 Born to give and born to receive,  
 Born to help and born to be helped,

Born to lead and born to be led,  
Born to love and born to be loved.

*Response by family and friends:*

**O God of Life and Love,  
We give our thanks.**

*Priest/Celebrant*

For the trials which children bring us;  
For the pains of growing, the hurts of learning;  
For the joys which children bring us;  
For their laughter and innocence, their love and unquestionable trust;  
For N, and the love of her parents

*Response by family and friends:*

**O God of Life and Love,  
We give our thanks.**

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**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**

**and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**The Benediction**

As we go from this place  
may we be  
full of desire and wonder,  
full of longing and praise  
and full of the courage to love.

And the blessing of God,  
Creator, Saviour and Giver of Life be with you all, now and for  
ever.  
**Amen**