

Parents' names have come today to thank God for the birth of their son/daughter, *child's name*. They invite us to pray for God's blessing on *child's name* and for them in their role as parents.

The minister and parents say...

Gracious God,
giver of life,
We praise you for the wonder of creation,
for the privilege of parenthood,
and for the gift of this child.
Thank you for your goodness and love to us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Bible reading from Mark 10:13-16...

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch 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 parents are presented with a copy of the Bible.

The parents give the child to the minister.

What name have you given this child?

We have named him/her *child's name*.

Those present lay their hands on the child while the minister prays...

Child's name, may God be gracious to you and bless you.
May the Lord lead you to know and love him,
experiencing the fullness of life that is in Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

The minister returns the child to the parents.

The minister prays...

God our Father,
thank you for blessing *parents' names*
with the gift of a *son/daughter*.
Give them wisdom, love and patience
in their relationship with each other
and with their children.
Guide them with your word
in the fellowship of your church
and fill them with your Holy Spirit,
so that they may serve you
and give you praise and honour;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The minister may offer further prayers appropriate to the occasion.

The minister concludes...

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favour
and grant you peace.

*A Service of Thanksgiving
for a Child*

Child's Name