

The Parish Church of St George.
Brockworth



Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of God and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with you.

All **And also with you**

We are here today to give thanks for *these children*, with *their* family and friends,
and to support *their* 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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

Jesus is Lord of all creation.

All **We worship and adore you.**

Jesus made his home among us.

All **We worship and adore you.**

Jesus died to set us free.

All **We worship and adore you.**

Jesus was raised to life again.

All **We worship and adore you.**

Jesus reigns in glory now.

All **We worship and adore you.**

We worship and adore you with angels
and archangels and all the company of
heaven, *saying*:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of
power and might, heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Loving God, you hold all things in life
and call us into your kingdom of
peace; help us to walk the path of
your truth and fill our lives with
gratitude and faith, through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading and Sermon

Hymn:.

Thanksgiving and Blessing

Parents bring the child and
supporting friends to the front.

The minister says

Do you receive these children as a gift
from God?

All **We do.**

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

All **We do.**

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.
Blessed be God for ever.

The minister may say for each child

What name have you given this child?

A parent or supporting friend replies

His/her name is N.

The minister may take the child and
says

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
his/her 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.

When all the children have been
prayed for

May *they* 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 *their children*. May God give *them* wisdom, patience and faith, help *them* to provide for the *children's* needs and, by *their* example, reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Giving of the Gospel

A copy of a Gospel 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 supporting friends and say

Will you do all that you can to help and support N and N in the bringing up of N?
With the help of God, we will.

The minister asks the wider family and friends.

Will you do all that you can to help and support this family?
All **With the help of God, we will.**

Prayers

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

The minister may say additional prayers

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so we have the courage to say

**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.**

Ending

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

About this service.

The birth or adoption of a child is a cause for celebration. Many people are overcome by a sense of awe at the creation of new life and want to express their thanks to God. This service provides an opportunity for parents and families to give thanks for the birth or adoption of a child and to pray for family life. It may be a private celebration at home or in hospital, or it may be a public celebration in church, sometimes with a number of children.

This service is not the same as Baptism (sometimes called Christening), which is the sacrament of initiation into membership of the Church, the Body of Christ. If you are interested in exploring the Christian faith, or finding out more about preparation for Baptism, ask the minister taking this service.