

## Sample words for a Thanksgiving and Blessing service

### ***The minister says***

Do you receive *these children/this child* as a gift from God?

**We do.**

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

**We do.**

### ***The minister says***

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 takes 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 addresses the supporting friends and says***

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 addresses the wider family and friends and says***

Will you do all that you can to help and support *this family*?

**With the help of God, we will.**

**Prayers**

***This prayer may be said by the parents or by the whole congregation***

**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.**