

ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH

TO BE A BEACON RADIATING GOD'S LOVE AMONG ALL PEOPLE



THANKSGIVING
FOR THE BIRTH OF A CHILD

Rector: The Reverend Beverley Sealy-Knight

THANKSGIVING FOR THE BIRTH OF A CHILD

The President greets the people, saying

The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

The President addresses the congregation in these or similar words:

Dear friends in Christ, we have come to thank God our creator for the gift of this child N-; therefore let us join with *his/her* family in this song of praise.

PSALM 103 1-4, 13, 17, 18, 22

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and forget not all his benefits.

He forgives all your sins

and heals all your infirmities;

He redeems your life from the grave

and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness;

As a father cares for his children,

so does the Lord care for those who fear Him.

The merciful goodness of the Lord
 endures for ever on those who fear Him,
 and his righteousness on
 children's children;

On those who keep His covenant
 and remember His commandments and do them.

Bless the Lord, all you works of His,
 in all places of His dominion;
 bless the Lord, O my soul.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
 and to the Holy Spirit:
 as it was in the beginning, is now,
 and shall be for ever. *Amen.*

OR

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
 I shall not be in want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures
 and leads me beside still waters.
 He revives my soul
 and guides me along right pathways
 for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
and you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be for ever. **Amen.**

The president then says,

God, giver of life, we thank you for the gift of this child. Confirm our joy by your presence; give us quiet strength and patient wisdom as we seek to nurture *him/her* in all that is good, true, just and pure, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The parents of the child may say together:

God our creator and redeemer, thank you for the gift of this child, entrusted to our care for a time. May we be patient and understanding, ready to guide and forgive, that in our love this child may know your love, and learn to love your world and the whole family of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If only one parent of the child is present, the above form may be used or the parent may say:

God our creator and redeemer, thank you for the gift of this child, entrusted to my care for a time. May I be patient and understanding, ready to guide and forgive, that in my love this child may know your love, and learn to love your world and the whole family of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The President may add one or more of the following prayers:

THANKSGIVING AFTER DELIVERY

Gracious God, creator and sustainer of human life, we praise you that you have called N- to share in your creative acts in the great mystery of childbirth. We give you thanks that she has been brought safely

through the time of pregnancy and labour. Grant that she may know your joy in bringing new life into this world which you love, in the name of Him who was born of a woman, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

FOR THE FAMILY

Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who shared in Nazareth the life of an earthly home, dwell in the home of these your servants, give them grace to serve others as you have served, and grant that by deed and word they may be witnesses of your saving love to those among whom they live, for the sake of your holy name. *Amen.*

FOR CHILDREN BORN WITH DISABILITIES

O God, creator of us all, we give you thanks for the life of this child. Grant us understanding, compassionate, and accepting hearts, and the gifts of courage and patience to face the challenge of caring for *him/her*; let your love for us show forth in our lives, that we may create an atmosphere in which *he/she* will live a life full of dignity and worth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The President and people together may say:

God, giver of all life, we thank you for calling us to share in your work of creation, and especially for giving us this child N-. Help us to show *him/her* such faith and love that *he/she* may daily grow in grace and live to serve you and your people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Unless the Lord's Prayer is said elsewhere in the service, the President shall say,

Gathering our prayers and praises into one let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

ALL:

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 forever. **Amen.**

