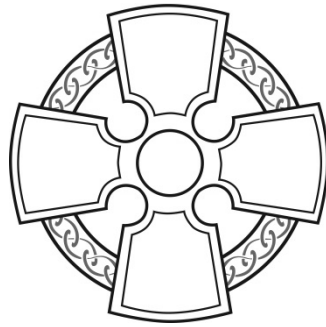


The Church in Wales



PRAYERS FOR A CHILD
~ BOOK TWO ~

*Prayers at the
Adoption of a Child*

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INTRODUCTION

The Liturgy included in this booklet has been approved by the Bench of Bishops (June 2015) and produced by the Standing Liturgical Advisory Commission for use in services within the Church in Wales.

***Prayers at the
Adoption of a Child***

Gathering

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Greeting

May the grace and peace of God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Introduction

Dear Friends, Jesus welcomed children and blessed them, teaching us that we should accept the kingdom of God like a little child. Today, we gather with joy as *N* and *N* welcome this child into their family. We pray that they may be blessed with the gifts of patience and love and that this child may be nurtured in love, so that by their life together, the fruits of God's kingdom will flourish and grow.

Reading

Mark 10. 13-16

Jesus blessed the little children

Matthew 18. 1-4

*'Whoever welcomes one such child in
my name welcomes me.'*

Mark 10. 13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Matthew 18. 1-4

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'

Acknowledgement by the Child and Parents

You have received *N.* into your family;
will you (*continue to*) love and care for *him/her*?

We will.

[If the child is of an appropriate age:

You have accepted *N* and *N* as your parents;
will you love and respect them?

I will.]

To other family members and friends:

You rejoice today with this child and *his/her* new
parents.

Will you do all you can to support them.

We will.

To members of the church community:

We are brothers and sisters of Christ, children of the
same heavenly Father.

Will you embrace this family in the love of Christ?

We will.

Presentation of Bible

The celebrant presents a copy of the Bible, New Testament or gospel to the family, as he says:

Our Lord Jesus Christ shared the love of Mary and Joseph in his earthly home at Nazareth.

Receive this *Bible/New Testament/Gospel*.

May the Word of God dwell in your hearts and lives, may it flourish and grow, so that you may live together in holiness and peace.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the Church:

that, as one family of God, all Christians may abide in love.

We pray for *N* and *N* and their new *son/daughter N*.
May they be united as a family in Christ.

We pray for the *brother/sister* of *N*.
May they grow in friendship and love.

We pray for all married couples who yearn for the gift of a child.

May the Lord's love come to new birth in their lives.

We pray for all Christian families.
May God's love dwell in their homes.

We have all be adopted by grace as sons and daughters of God our Father, and so we say:

Either

**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.**

or

**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.**

Prayers of Blessing

Your son taught us that whoever welcomes a little child welcomes him.

We thank you for *N*.

whom *N* and *N* have welcomed into their family.

Bless this family who stand in your presence.

Give to these parents patience and wisdom

that they may share the love of Christ,

and know your constant presence in their lives,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep watch over you;

the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you;

the Lord look lovingly 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.**

Acknowledgements

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