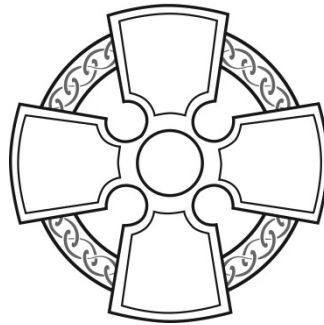


# **The Church in Wales**



PRAYERS FOR A CHILD  
~ BOOK THREE ~

*Prayers at the*  
**Birth of a Child who is disabled or ill**

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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 Birth of a Child who is disabled or ill***

*This liturgy may be adapted according to circumstances. Sometimes, the parents of a child will know of a particular disability before the child is born and they will have had some time, however short, to prepare for the circumstances of their child's birth. However, there are also occasions, of course, when disability or illness are unexpected or when a child is born prematurely or when there are complications at birth, and there is uncertainty about whether or not the child will live.*

*For some people who experience the birth of a child who is disabled in some way there is often a sense of grief and bereavement as their hopes and dreams for their child and family are now changed. They will require care and support in the days and years to come.*

## ***Gathering***

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

## ***Greeting***

*Either:*

May the God of all consolation and hope be with  
you.

**And also with you.**

*or:*

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**Who made heaven and earth.**

## ***Introduction***

### *When a child is born seriously ill:*

We gather to give thanks for the birth of this child and to pray for *him/her* that, received and embraced in love, this little one may be nursed to health and wholeness. We pray that the Lord will constantly watch over *him/her*, give *his/her* parents strength and faith, patience and hope. May they be helped to embrace the difficulties to come and always know God's saving love. We pray that this hour of danger may pass swiftly so that their home may once again be filled with joy and happiness.

### *When a child is born with disabilities:*

Your days have been filled with hope for the future as you have prepared with great love and joy for the birth of your child and yet now you are filled with deep sorrow and concern, with uncertainty and doubts. But the Lord is loving and compassionate and is always close. Today, he assures you of his presence. He is your rock and refuge and in him you will find rest and peace and strength to meet the days to come. We pray for this little child who is surrounded by so much love and for you, his loving parents, that you may discover the mystery of God's kingdom in one so small.

## ***Readings***

### **Matthew 19. 13-15**    *'Let the little children come to me.'*

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.' And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

### **Psalm 139. 13-16**

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

## ***Intercessions***

Let us pray to the Lord  
who is full of compassion and love and who looks on  
this little child with such great love.

For this little child, fragile and vulnerable,  
that the Lord may protect *him/her*.

Lord of compassion and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

For *(these parents) N and N*,  
that they may be strengthened in faith and love.

Lord of compassion and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

For doctors and nursing staff,  
that their skill and care may bring health and  
happiness to this little child.

Lord of compassion and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

For all who are called to uphold this family,  
that they may they ease their burden and bring them  
care and support.

Lord of compassion and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

God is our loving Father, who hears us when we pray.  
Let us pray that we may discover God's will in our lives:

*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.**



## ***Prayer***

God our Father,  
our lives are filled with an abundance of hopes and  
dreams, as we yearn for life in all its fullness.

Help us to understand your will.

Give us strength and faith to embrace the difficulties  
of today so that, tomorrow, we may be stronger and  
our faith deeper, built on the solid foundation of  
Christ your Son.

Help us to perceive your gifts and know your wisdom  
so that this family who are gathered in your presence  
may be filled with joy and happiness.

We pray for this little child.

Hold *him/her* in the palm of your hand and give  
*him/her* the protection of your fatherly care.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## ***Blessing***

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.**

# Appendix

***The following introduction may be used when the birth has been difficult***

We gather with great joy at the birth of this child and with relief that the pains and difficulties of childbirth are over. We pray for *his/her* parents, especially *N* as she recovers, and for the whole family whose concern and anguish are known by the Lord. May the days to come be filled with joy and happiness.

***Prayer after a difficult childbirth***

God our Father,  
you hear the anguish of your people  
and you know our pains.  
You have brought *N*. through the difficulties of  
childbirth.  
Give her strength, raise her up  
and help her know the fullness of life  
and happiness for ever,  
which comes from knowing Christ Jesus your Son  
who is alive and reigns with for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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