

CELEBRATION FOR THE HOME

This service is adapted from the *Book of Occasional Services* (Episcopal Church, 1991) and is intended for the blessing of a new home by friends and family. There should be sufficient copies of the service so that everyone present is able to respond and participate. One of the family members or guests may carry a candle from room to room. Following the service there may be a shared meal and gifts appropriate to the occasion. The language of the service may need to be reworded in each case, appropriate to the situation. Families are encouraged to use this basic form to develop and write their own ceremony.

When everyone has gathered, words of welcome and a prayer may be offered by the host and/or hostess or the minister.

Peace be to this home and to all who live here,
this day and forevermore.

Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.

Psalms 127:1

We can build a house, Lord; we need you to create a home.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, giver of all life and love,
grant your blessing to N/s _____
whom you have brought under the shelter of this roof.
May *he/she/they* ever seek your presence,
that this house may be a home of peace and love;
shield and protect *him/her/them* from all evil;
bless *him/her/them* in all godly endeavors;
and whether in prosperity or adversity,
in health or in sickness,
let *him/her/them* know
that your hand is upon *him/her/them*.
Grant that we may so follow you
in every step of our daily lives that,
though our paths may lead us from one another,
we may all abide within the safe shelter of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Colossians 3:12-17 may be read by a family member or friend.

In the Entrance Hall

**Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;
if you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in and eat with you, and you with me.**

Revelation 3:20

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

Psalms 121:8

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, you are Alpha and Omega,
the beginning and the end;
when you send your servant/s out from this place,
be *his/her/their* constant companion in the way,
and welcome *him/her/them* upon *his/her/their* return,
so that coming and going
he/she/they may be sustained by your presence,
O Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In the Living Room

**How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!**

Psalms 133:1

**Above all, maintain constant love for one another,
for love covers a multitude of sins.**

1 Peter 4:8

Let us pray.

Give your blessing Lord,
to all who share this room,
that they may be knit together in fellowship here on earth
and joined with the communion of your saints in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In the Dining Room and Kitchen

**You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.**

Joel 2:26a

The eyes of all look to you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

Psalm 145:15

Let us pray.

O Lord, who has ordained that by daily food
we shall renew our strength for service,
bless the hands that work in this place
and all those who share in the meals.
Pour your Holy Spirit into each of their hearts,
that, being nourished by your gifts
and through the sharing of common meals,
they may be enabled to give you thanks and praise.
Make them grateful for all your mercies
and mindful of the needs of others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Family members may say:

**I/We dedicate this kitchen and dining room
to physical renewal and to family sharing.**

In the Master Bedroom

**Guide us waking, O Lord,
and guard us sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

Psalm 3:5

Let us pray.

O God of life and love,
the true rest of your people,
sanctify to N/s _____ his/her/their hours of rest and refreshment,
his/her/their sleeping, and his/her/their waking, and grant that,
strengthened by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit,
he/she/they may rise to serve you
all the days of his/her/their life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In the Guest Room

**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that
some have entertained angels without knowing it.**

Hebrews 13:2

Be hospitable to one another without complaining;
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:9-10

Let us pray.

Loving God,
you have taught us to welcome one another
as Christ welcomed us.
Bless those who share the hospitality of this home.
May your care shield them,
the love of your son preserve them from all evil,
and the guidance of your Holy Spirit
keep them in the way that leads to eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the Children's Rooms

**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."**

Matthew 19:14

Praise the Lord, you children of the Lord.
Praise the name of the Lord.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,
your son, our Savior,
took young children into his arms and blessed them.
Embrace *N/s*_____ with your unfailing love,
protect *him/her/them* from all danger,
and bring *him/her/them* in safety to each new day,
until *he/she/they* greet/s with joy
the great day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Family members may say:

***I/We* dedicate these bedrooms to rest, refreshment, and privacy.**

In the Garden

**For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness
and praise to spring up before all the nations.**

Isaiah 61:11

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

Psalms 16:6

Let us pray.

O Master Gardener,
even as you gave us a garden at creation to till and to keep,
so we continue to turn to the soil to refresh our souls.
We praise you for the harvest of the earth,
for the cycle of seasons and for the rhythm of growing things.
Be present with *N/s*_____ in this garden.
May *he/she/they* delight in its gifts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Dedication of the Family Members

The dedication of family members may take place in the living room or where everyone can be present and comfortable.

I charge you to address friction and conflict with faith,
and to practice tolerance and understanding of others.
Make this home worthy of the presence of Jesus, the unseen guest.
Let Christ be your guide in speech and conduct.
Dedicate each day's activities to the glory of God.
Be conscious of the larger human family.
In doing so you will find meaning in your home,
strength to face the suffering, frustrations,
and sorrows of life,
and a foretaste of your eternal home.

Family members:

***I/We dedicate myself/ourselves,
in the name of God the Father,
God the Son,
and God the Holy Spirit.
Amen.***

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Here the Doxology or another appropriate hymn may be sung.