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## Naming Ceremony Introduction

The Introduction may involve an explanation of the purpose of the ceremony, the responsibilities involved, the benefits for the child in the interest of the adults taking part in the ceremony. Apart from the following pieces, the ceremony can also begin with a reading which expresses the theme of the ceremony.

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### No. 1

Ladies and Gentlemen,

(Parents of the Baby) have invited us today to take part in a ceremony which welcomes their baby into their family unit, and into the wider family of their relatives and friends.

And while the birth of their baby has meant great joy for them, this joy is not unmixed. The responsibility of this child's life and happiness is in their hands. From now on much of their life will involve caring for their baby, guiding her development, nurturing her growth as a responsible human being.

Just as they have invited you here to share their happiness and their joy, so (Parents of the Baby) also ask you to share their responsibility, realizing that the more love this child receives the more she will be able to give love to others. The more people make up her world, the richer her world will be.

### No. 2

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have gathered to share with (Parents of the Baby) their happiness and joy in their role as parents. While children bring with them great happiness they also bring with them great responsibility.

We rejoice with (Parents of the Baby) in the safe delivery of their baby, and know there is much happiness for them in the future through the many stages of growth that they will experience. The first smile, the first word, the first step, are all stages marking the development of the child.

(Parents of the Baby) recognize that a baby is the message of hope for the community, and the home the training ground of good men and women. In it are bred either those who will be leaders of new generations, or those who live only for themselves.

## NAMING CEREMONY INTRODUCTION

So we all join together in this service to demonstrate our willingness to share in the task of training this new life, guarding him from evil, and teaching him what a wonderful thing life can be.

### No. 3

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today (Parents of the Baby) have invited us to take part in this ceremony to express their commitment to their baby, while recognizing the challenges ahead of them.

But while a child is a demanding responsibility that often tests our patience and our understanding, it is also much more than that. A child brings joy, wonder and richness to our lives.

What pleasure there is in the feel of a newborn baby nestling in our arms, the smile of a toddler responding to our love, the small outstretched arms reaching for a hug, and a tiny upturned face planting a wet kiss on our cheeks.

Time will bring toys on floors and balls on lawns, a happy, healthy child playing in the yard. There will be bruises to kiss, report cards to praise, and drawings to display on refrigerator doors.

A child brings pleasure and wonder into the lives of those who bring it into this world. But it also means great responsibility; for what the child becomes is largely what you, as parents, bring into her life.

### No. 4

Ladies and Gentlemen.

As we gather here today to welcome this child into our community we may pause to think what gift we can give him that will remain with him for the rest of his life.

There are many things that we value and that we think are important. But the most precious thing that we can give this child is beyond value, that nothing can replace - and that is, our time.

There are times when we get so deeply involved in our own chores and pursuits that we hate to stop what we're doing and give the child the attention he needs.

If we are to be truly committed to the development of this child, we must be prepared to lay down the book that we're reading to accept his invitation to come out to see a rainbow, or a cloud that looks like a dinosaur. We must be prepared to shut off the television set, the lawn mower, the vacuum cleaner.

Tidy homes, green lawns - is not what the child will remember. Rather, it will be the games you played, the confidences you shared, the times you spent together - these will be remembered and treasured for years to come.

## NAMING CEREMONY INTRODUCTION

### No. 5

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We meet here to take part in a simple ceremony. It is the occasion when the happy parents bring their child here to express before others the deep thankfulness that is theirs.

It is also an invitation to all of us here to begin building for their child a store of memories from which she can draw strength, joy and confidence - memories upon which she can build a loving and productive life for herself.

It is important that our children remember the intimacy they felt when we gather together as a family to share a meal.

The pride they felt for one another at moments of triumph and accomplishment - at graduations, promotion, and other times of attaining goals.

We want them to remember parents who hugged and kissed and were never too old to hold hands.

We want them to remember both the turbulence and the tranquillity, the joys and the sorrows, the struggles and the triumphs of growing up.

We want to give our children memories that will make their lives not only more enjoyable, but also more meaningful and more loving.

### No. 6

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have been invited today to share with (Parents of the Baby) the joy they feel in welcoming their new son into their family and into their home.

(Parents of the Baby) recognize the responsibility that is theirs in bringing this baby into the world; and the need for them to cultivate understanding, sympathy and patience.

Where else can we better ourselves, or be better understood - then in the home. Where else can we make mistakes and be so fully forgiven - but in the home. Where else do we go with an aching heart, or with the disappointments of any day - but to the home. Where else is so much service so unselfishly given - but in the home. The love of mothers, parents, children, is the most close and precious relationship of life.

Attitudes are first formed in the home. Examples are most evident in the home. We can use our lives no better than to love and cherish and teach our children the responsibilities and the purpose of life. In the words of a song "There is beauty all around, when there's love in the home."



## NAMING CEREMONY INTRODUCTION

### No. 7

Family and friends, we have gathered today to share with (Parents of the Baby) their happiness and joy, on the birth of their daughter and to thank God for this precious gift.

The birth of a child is a very special event, one that be described as miraculous. As we gaze upon the face of a newborn child, mystery overwhelms us and our hearts overflow with emotion. It is at this moment, we are touched by God, and experience the depth of his love for us. He has given us a precious gift in this child, one to love and cherish, and to guide on a righteous path. The way a child is loved and cherished is a gift back to God.

Mixed with the happiness that (Parents of the Baby) have, is also a certain awe at the responsibility that is now theirs. This welcome and dedication of this child, will remind them from now on, a great deal of their lives will be involved in caring for her, guiding her development and nurturing her growth as a human being. Just as they wish you to share their joy, they also ask you to share their responsibility.

It is certain that the more love this child receives, the more she will benefit in her life and the more love in turn she will be able to give others. The more people to whom this child relates, the more balanced and rich her growth will be, so your presence at this celebration today is appreciated, as will be your interest and involvement in her years ahead.

### No. 8

I want to welcome you to the naming ceremony of the son of (Parents of the Baby). We gather here today to witness their commitment to parenthood and to officially welcome a new member into our community. We are here because of our relationship with them, for we are their community—their circle of people. We are the community with whom they celebrate life's special moments, and to whom they will turn in times of need. We are their extended family and friends and we honor their commitment to this new little one, who has changed their lives forever.

In this special circle, we are bound together by love and respect. Each and every one of us matters. When we leave here today, we will remain a part of this special circle. In everyday behavior, it is more difficult to experience this specialness, so let this ceremony be a time when we commit to being more caring toward one another. As this child we name today is a newcomer, we all have at one time been newcomers. Like all of us, he needs us to open our circle and support to him.

To be a parent forces you to recognize that you are no longer a child. Claiming adulthood, we look at our children and see ourselves. We feel the temptation to help them succeed where we have failed. But as much as we seek to make them like us, we cannot. What we can do is see that they do their best. And as they

## NAMING CEREMONY INTRODUCTION

grow, they will in turn be pushing us to grow with them. This we can do, if we love them not for who they may become, but for who they are—unique and special.

Parenthood is the ultimate expression and the severest test of a marriage. The greatest act of love parents have to give their children is the love they express for one another. The interactions between a mother and father, husband and wife, form the web of the relationship that serves as the child's nest. Children learn about men and women, communication, caring, respect, feelings, conflict, and love by watching their parents.

Recognizing this, you stand before us now to reaffirm your commitment to each other and to your son.



It's my pleasure to welcome you here today to share with this family a very special occasion.

(Parents of the Baby) wish to express their joy in the birth of this child, and to officially welcome her into their family unit, and to the wider family of relatives and friends. (Parents of the Baby) would like you all to share their joy on this happy occasion, and they also look forward to your continuing friendship, interest and involvement in the years ahead.

A child brings her own unique personality, and adds new dimension to the family unit. (Parents of the Baby) will always find something new to laugh at or admire. (Parents of the Baby) are also aware of the great responsibility that is now theirs. A great deal of their lives will be involved in caring for their child and guiding her through the years to come.



Friends family of (Parents of the Baby)

We meet here to take part together in a simple ceremony. We do so for a number of reasons.

Firstly, (Parents of the Baby) wish to express their joy to you on the birth of their son. They are pleased that he arrived safely in this world. They want to welcome him into their family unit, to the wider family of their relatives, and to the community of their friends and the world. They wish you all to share this joy.

It is certain that the more love this child receives the more he will benefit in his life and the more love in turn he will be able to give to others. The more people to whom this child relates the more balanced and rich his growth will be. So your presence at this celebration today is appreciated, as will be your interest and involvement in the years ahead.

## NAMING CEREMONY INTRODUCTION

### No. 11

A new child has come into the world. We rejoice for her, her parents, her grandparents and for all of us whose lives will be enriched by her arrival.

Through the years may she grow in health and wisdom, bringing joy and fulfillment to all who embrace her with love.

May God, bless (Parents of the Baby) with wisdom as they teach their daughter ever to be aware of God's presence and of the beauty and wonder of the world. May they nourish the Divine goodness that has been implanted within her, so that she may grow to love the goodness that is implanted in all humanity. Though none can escape sorrow and pain, we wish for her the courage to face evil, the faith to transcend it, and the strength to subdue it. May she be healthy in mind and body, so that she enjoys the life given her.

### No. 12

We have come here today to celebrate with (Parents of the Baby) an important event in their lives – welcoming their son into the family and into the wider community of the society in which he lives.

To do so, (Parents of the Baby) choose to remember where their son comes from and what people have been part of his creation.

(Parents of the Baby) realize that as parents it is important for them not only to provide food and clothing for their son, but also to invest their time in him, and nurture him with love and respect to aid him in becoming all that he can be.

### No. 13

In welcoming and naming a child, we celebrate one of life's continuing miracles, the birth of a human being and the continuation of human kind. We rejoice that the baby has been born into the concern and care not only of her parents, but also of this gathering and community.

The phrase "it takes a village to raise a child" has become so familiar it has lost much of its ability to inspire us. Nonetheless, it is true. While the task of nurturing children belongs mainly to their parents, it also belongs, in part, to all of you, family, friends and colleagues who are gathered here today.

(Parents of the Baby) believe that every member of a community has a responsibility and duty to care for the other members of the community. You are representatives of the larger community in which the baby will grow up. It is through you that she will come to know her community and her world. By your support, example and encouragement you have a part to play in the development of this child to her fullest potential.



## NAMING CEREMONY INTRODUCTION

Today (Parents of the Baby) want to share in the celebration of their baby's birth and to ask you to share in this first step – her introduction to this gathering who will guide her along the way.

### No. 14

Today we welcome (Baby) into his family and his community. We have come here to recognize the special responsibilities of parents to their child; to acknowledge the role of grandparents; and to appoint godparents who will accept an important role in mentoring (Baby) on his journey through life. But most of all, we have come to rejoice in life and to celebrate the precious gift of this child.

(Parents of the Baby), have asked me to express how each of you has played an essential part in their lives, and their ability to reach this day to honour their son. You are here not to merely witness this ceremony, but to celebrate it with them. Your love and support has been and will continue to be essential as they, with (Baby), face the future, and for that they are truly thankful.

As we celebrate with (Baby) and his family, we also think about the larger human community and its responsibility to its children. And so I ask each of you to consider what you can pass on to the next generation. Perhaps, in the words of Rachel Carson, “the greatest legacy we can bestow on our children is this: the capacity to be enchanted by the quiet gifts of everyday life.”

### No. 15

I want to welcome you all to the naming ceremony of the first child of (Parents of the Baby). We are glad that you were all able to make it here today for this occasion. (Parents of the Baby) have chosen not to commit their new child to any particular religious belief, because they want her to find her own truth for herself. It is their intention to provide her with an environment in which she can do this.

We meet together on this special day to:  
witness commitments from the parents and mentors;  
celebrate the birth and naming of their child;  
and to welcome the baby into the world and into our lives.

You are the community with whom (Parents of the Baby) celebrate life's special moments, and to whom they will turn in times of need. You are the people who matter to them - and it is with you that they wish to share their joy.

### No. 16

We are present here today to witness and support the naming ceremony of (Baby); the son of (Parents of the Baby) who was born into this world on (Date).

You have been invited here as family and friends supporting this child with your prayers and good wishes. We join our thoughts and sincere goodwill, asking that

## NAMING CEREMONY INTRODUCTION

God's peace embrace this family and an arc of God's light surround this child for all of his days.

We welcome the child in love into the human community, in the spirit of humanity's oneness, and into the fellowship of life! We seek to create a world filled increasingly with love, freedom, and truth, and in this Naming Ceremony, we hope that the child's thoughts and actions in life will pass on to the future our heritage of freedom, service, and love, which the child receives from us.

The support of the entire community—parents, family, and friends—is essential to the continuing unfolding of the child's life and blessing. We all accept responsibility for the child and promise to offer safety, affection, encouragement, challenge, and learning. We support the family's key role in guarding the child's life, freedom, and opportunities.

We honour the individual life of the child as we celebrate the miracle of the advent and the growth of the child. We see the wonder and mystery of life incarnate when we look on the face of the child



Every child brings new life and hope into the world. We set aside a special time today for the community, represented by those present, to bless the child and celebrate the blessing of this gift of life. The ceremony does not make the life of the child sacred; life is sacred in itself.

We understand that we are all part of the interconnected web of all existence. The community is part of the fabric that holds all human life, the story of many shared lives woven into our cultures, and the saga of each individual. We are who we are, in part, because of the love and guidance and the inspiration and ideals that we receive, especially from those who parent us.

Those of us gathered here today, have the privileged role not only of supporting the parents in the sacred task of nurturing life but also of weaving the threads of culture—history, values, arts, wisdom, visions—into a fabric that can enfold the family.

As we join together to name and dedicate the child and ourselves, the identity and values of the community and the family give the ceremony meaning. We affirm our commitment to nurture the child and hold the child in the fabric of community. In a ceremony of blessings given and received. We are all blessed when we welcome the child into the human family and give our blessing to the child's life as he begins his journey.

We hope that this child receives love and affection, guidance and nurture, so that he may grow into the fullness of the promise of life. Mindful that such love is an honour and a responsibility.



# General Readings

The topics of these readings is the treatment of a child and is appropriate for anyone at the ceremony to read.

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## No. 1

If there be righteousness in the heart,  
There will be beauty in the character.  
If there is beauty in the character  
There will be harmony in the home.  
If there is harmony in the home  
There will be order in the nation.  
If there is order in each nation  
There will be peace in the world.

## No. 2

As a community of friends and family, we all share a responsibility to provide the atmosphere in which a child develops as a person, so it is important that we remember that

A child who lives with criticism, learns to condemn.  
A child who lives with hostility, learns to fight.  
A child who lives with ridicule, learns to be shy.  
A child who lives with shame, learn to feel guilty.

But a child who lives with tolerance, learns to be patient.  
A child who lives with encouragement, learns confidence.  
A child who lives with fairness, learns justice.  
A child who lives with security, learns to have faith.  
A child who lives with approval, learns to like himself.  
When a child lives with acceptance and friendship,  
he learns to find love in the world.

## No. 3

Bless this little heart, this white soul  
that has won the kiss of heaven for our earth.  
She loves the light of the sun, she loves the sight of her mother's face.  
She has not learned to despise the dust.

## READINGS - GENERAL

and to hanker after gold.  
Clasp her to your heart and bless her.

She has come into this land of a hundred cross-roads.  
She will follow you, laughing and talking  
and not a doubt in her heart.  
Keep her trust, lead her straight and bless her.

Lay your hand on her head, and pray  
that though the waves underneath grow threatening,  
yet the breath from above may come and fill her sails  
and waft her to the heaven of peace.  
Forget her not in your hurry, let her come to your heart  
and bless her.

### No. 4

It is true that life is a family affair, and that the family is the most important relationship of life. It is mainly in the home that the heart is opened, the habits are formed, the intellect is awakened, and the character moulded for good or for evil.

The family is responsible for its own, for keeping, for caring, for loving, for teaching, for training, for taking all the time it takes. For what better purpose is there to take time for? What could be more meaningful? Where could we better invest for the future, than in our families?

Let there be love at home. Let there be tenderness and teaching and caring for, and not a shifting of responsibility onto others. Never be too busy for what matters most - the family.

### No. 5

A house needs to be wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship,  
and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and hate.

Its threshold needs to be smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children or to straying feet, but rugged enough to turn back from all wrong.

### No. 6

When we as adults think of children, there is a simple truth, which we ignore:  
Childhood is not preparation for life: childhood is life!

A child isn't getting ready to live; a child is living.

## READINGS - GENERAL

The child is constantly being confronted with such nagging question: "What are you going to be?" Courageous would be the youngster who, looking the adult squarely in the face, would say, "I'm not going to be anything; I already am"

We adults would be shocked by such an insolent remark, for we have forgotten, if indeed we ever knew, that a child is an active participating and contributing member of society from the time he is born.

Childhood isn't a time when he is molded into a human who will then live life; he is a human who is living life.

No child will miss the zest and joy of living unless these are denied him by adults who have convinced themselves that childhood is a period of preparation.

How much heartache we would save ourselves if we would recognise the child as a partner with adults in the process of loving, rather than always viewing him as an apprentice.

How much we would teach each other...adults with the experience and children with the freshness.

How full both our lives could be.

A little child may not lead us, but at least we ought to discuss the trip with him; for, after all, life is his and her journey too.

No. 7

### The Value of Time

To realize the value of ten years:

Ask a newly Divorced couple.

To realize the value of four years:

Ask a graduate.

To realize the value of one year:

Ask a student who Has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of nine months:

Ask a mother who gave birth to a still born.

To realize the value of one month:

Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week:

Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one hour:



## READINGS - GENERAL

Ask the lovers who are waiting to Meet.

To realize the value of one minute:

Ask a person Who has missed the train, bus, or plane.

To realize the value of one-second:

Ask a person Who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of one millisecond:

Ask the person who has won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have.

You will treasure it even more when you can share it with someone special.

### No. 8

Let our children learn to be honest, both with themselves and with others. Honesty is the ability to distinguish between what is and what is not, and thus to deal effectively with reality.

Let our children learn to love truth. When truth is present, there is no prejudice. By fidelity to truth the mind is nourished.

Let our children discover their strengths and find courage.

Let our children cultivate kindness, tolerance and acceptance of other people. These abilities do not come without cultivation.

Let our children learn that they are like others, even people they do not like; and that there is good and bad in all of us.

### No. 9

No one is born a new being. He bears in his psyche the imprint of past generations. He is a combination of ancestral units from which a new being must be fused, yet he also bears within him an essential germ, a potential of a unique individual value. The discovery of his unique essence and its development is the quest for consciousness.

### No. 10

An Angel Wrote:

Many people will walk in and out of your life

But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart

To handle yourself, use your head:

To handle others, use your heart.

Anger is only one letter short of danger.

If someone betrays you once, it's his fault.

## READINGS - GENERAL

if he betrays you twice, it's your fault.  
Great minds discuss ideas;  
Average minds discuss events.  
Small minds discuss people.  
God gives every bird it's food,  
But he does not throw it into the nest.  
He who loses money, loses much;  
He who loses a friend, loses more;  
He who loses faith, loses all.  
Beautiful young people are acts of nature,  
But beautiful old people are works of art.  
Learn from the mistakes of others,  
You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.  
The tongue weighs practically nothing,  
But so few can hold it.

### No. 41

These Are The Years  
These are the years, the gentle years  
the soft and sentimental years  
when wee little fingers  
reach and touch  
and little eyes gaze  
with wonder and trust,  
when you love so tenderly  
and so much  
these are the gentle years.

These are the years the rainbow years  
the quiet walk on tiptoe years,  
the years of laughter  
and smiles and sighs  
when both of you watch  
with misty eyes  
the tiny bed  
where a cherub lies,  
these are the rainbow years

These are the years, the tender years,  
The blissful, sweet-surrender years  
when your little treasure from above  
is the soul and purpose and center of,  
your plans and dreams and dearest love,  
these are the tender years

## READINGS - GENERAL

### No. 12

All guests make a circle around the couple and the baby and one of them recites the following poem

What Is A Family?

What is a family, how do they start?  
They start with a seed planted deep in your heart.  
They come with a chorus full of great sound,  
They come with great love, wherever it's found.

Where did my family start, when will it end?  
It started with two people, friend meeting friend.  
It won't end too briskly, it won't fade away.  
As you will soon learn on this wonderful day.

Our family can be anyone who wants in  
Anyone who'll stand by you through thick and through thin.  
It won't be contagious, hard work it will take.  
But, if you link hands a firm circle you'll make.

I invite you to join me and grab my right hand,  
And circle around these two friends where they stand.  
Come up and show them one family exists,  
On their joyful day full of family bliss.

Join hands all around them and bless them with love,  
As Our Heavenly Father has done from above.  
For, families are fragile and may not survive,  
Unless they have Angels to keep them alive.

This family is strong, we won't break the bond.  
We pledge to continue, this group will stand strong.  
We stand hand to hand, we stand heart to heart,  
And promise that never will we fall apart.

As mountains surround us, as rose petals drop,  
As sunsets sleep vivid, our love will not stop.  
This circle reminds us that family we'll stay.  
It's our promise to you, on your special day.

### No. 13

Give us the child who lives within - the child who trusts, the child who imagines,  
the child who sings, the child who receives without reservation, the child who  
gives without judgement.



## READINGS - GENERAL

Give us a child's eyes, that we may receive the beauty and freshness of this day like a sunrise.

Give us a child's ears, that we may hear the music of mythical times.

Give us a child's heart, that we may be filled with wonder and delight.

Give us a child's faith, that we may be cured of our cynicism.

Give us the spirit of the child, who is not afraid to need, who is not afraid to love.

### No. 14

Know you what it is to be a child? ... It is to have a spirit yet streaming from the waters of baptism; it is to believe in love, to believe in loveliness, to believe in belief; it is to be so little that the elves can reach to whisper in your ear; it is to turn pumpkins into coaches, and mice into horses, lowness into loftiness, and nothing into everything. - for each child has a fairy god-mother in his/her own soul; it is to live in a nutshell and count yourself the king/queen of infinite space; it is: to see the world in a grain of sand, and a heaven in a wild flower, hold infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour.

### No. 15

Children have rights:

The right to equality, regardless of race, colour, religion, sex and nationality

The right to healthy mental and physical development

The right to a name and nationality

The right to sufficient food, housing and medical care

The right to special care if handicapped

The right to love, understanding and care

The right to free education, play and recreation

The right to immediate aid in the event of disasters and emergencies

The right to protection from cruelty, neglect, and exploitation.

The right to protection from persecution and to an upbringing in the spirit of [sisterhood], brotherhood and peace.

### No. 16

A sister is one of the nicest things that can happen to anyone.

She is someone to laugh with and share with, to work with and join in the fun.

She is someone who helps in the rough times and knows when you need a warm smile.

## READINGS - GENERAL

She is someone who will quietly listen when you just want to talk for awhile.

A sister is dear to you always, for she is someone who is always a part of all the favorite memories that you keep very close to your heart.

No. 47

Welcome Baby  
Welcome Baby to our world  
how brave of you to come.  
We are here to welcome you  
as your journey's just begun.  
Here's our opportunity  
to help each other grow.  
To experience all the things,  
alone... we would not know.  
You have been successful,  
from your very start.  
Just welcoming you, has made us all  
release love from our hearts.  
So remember, little Baby,  
as you grow into your dreams.  
Everything in this world  
is not always what it seems.  
Welcome others into your world  
and it is there, that you will find.  
All the love you ever knew  
was never left behind.

## Blessings and Benedictions

Some of the readings below can involve everyone present in a litany where everyone responds, or in a blessing where everyone reads together. Others are just for general reading by one person.

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### No. 1

Celebrant: For health and strength and life,  
All: Let us be thankful.

Celebrant: For friends, homes and families.  
All: Let us be thankful.

Celebrant: For the beautiful sun,  
All: Let us be thankful.

Celebrant: For the rain which makes things grow.  
All: Let us be thankful.

Celebrant: For the woods and the fields,  
All: Let us be thankful.

Celebrant: For the sea and the sky,  
All: Let us be thankful.

Celebrant: For the flowers and the birds,  
All: Let us be thankful.

Celebrant: And for all the things that makes up our lives.  
All: Let us be thankful.

### No. 2

A baby was created by the hand of God above,  
To give the world the sweetest touch of tenderness and love.

With the softness of a whisper God made a baby's skin  
And then designed two trustful eyes to put the starlight in.

With the giggles from a waterfall, and breezes passing by  
God made a baby's laughter and a tiny sleepy sigh.



## BLESSINGS AND BENEDICTIONS

God made the world a precious gift more deeper and pure than gold  
With little toes to pay with and tiny hands to hold.

And wrapped in sunshine ribbons with a rainbows pretty swirl  
Brought down to earth the wonder of a tiny baby girl.

### No. 3

(Could be said, one line at a time, by different members of the family, or guests)

The healthy family communicates and listens.

The healthy family affirms and supports.

The healthy family teaches respect for others.

The healthy family develops a sense of trust.

The healthy family has a sense of play and humour.

The healthy family shares responsibility.

The healthy family teaches right and wrong.

The healthy family has a strong sense of kinship with many traditions.

The healthy family has a balance of interaction among its members.

The healthy family respect the privacy of one another.

The healthy family values service to others.

The healthy family fosters family table time and conversation.

The healthy family shares leisure time.

The healthy family admits to problems and seeks help.

### No. 4

May the roads rise up to meet you  
And may the winds be ever at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
And may the rains fall soft upon your fields.

Until we meet again, until we meet again,  
May God hold you.

## BLESSINGS AND BENEDICTIONS

May God hold you  
In the hollow of his hand.

### No. 5

The rainbow of God's promise  
Is always shining bright,  
And when the storm is over  
We'll see the blessed light.  
And if you only trust him  
As little children so  
He'll take us gently by the hand  
And see us safely through.

### No. 6

Sometimes we come to life's crossroads  
And we view what we think is the end;  
But God has a much wider vision  
And knows that it is only a bend.

The road will go on and get smoother,  
And after we've stopped for a rest,  
The path that is hidden beyond us  
Is often the part that is best.

So rest and relax and grow stronger,  
Let go and let God share your load;  
And have faith in a brighter tomorrow  
You've just come to a bend in the road.

### No. 7

Let us be grateful for our health and strength and life  
For our friends, our homes, our families,  
For the warm sun  
And the rain which makes things grow,  
For the woods and the fields,  
For the sea and the sky,  
For the flowers and the birds  
And for everything that makes up our lives.

### No. 8

Let us learn to live in unity and harmony,  
Not divided race from race,  
Faith from faith,  
Rich from poor,  
Old from young.

## BLESSINGS AND BENEDICTIONS

Neighbour from neighbour...

Let us break down the walls that separate us,  
Tear down the fences of indifference and hatred;  
Forgive each other from sins that divide us,  
Free ourselves from pride and self-seeking,  
Overcome our prejudices and fears,  
Have courage to open ourselves to others  
So that we become one.

No. 9

Today we pray for peace in our world:  
For all national leaders  
That they may have wisdom to know and courage to do what is right;  
For all men and women  
That their hearts may search for righteousness and truth;  
For those who are working to improve international relationships,  
That they may find the true way of reconciliation;  
For those who suffer as a result of war;  
The injured and disabled,  
The mentally distressed,  
The homeless and hungry,  
Those who mourn for their dead,  
And especially for those who are without hope or friend  
To sustain them in their grief.

No. 10

I have called you by your name  
You are mine.  
Should you pass by the sea I will be with you:  
● or through the rivers, they shall not swallow you up.  
Because you are precious in my eyes  
Because you are honoured – and I love you.  
In you old age, I shall still be the same;  
When your hair is grey, I shall still support you.  
Do not be afraid, I am with you  
I give you strength, bring you help  
For I am your God;

I am holding you by your right hand  
I will pour my spirit on your descendants, my blessing on your children.

No. 11

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry  
- two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.  
One of these days is yesterday, with its mistakes and care, its aches and pains.



## BLESSINGS AND BENEDICTIONS

Its faults and blunders.

Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.

We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase

A single word we said.

The other day we shouldn't worry about is tomorrow, with its possible

Adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance.

Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control.

Tomorrow's sun will rise either in splendour, or behind a mask of clouds

- but it will rise.

Until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow, for it is yet unborn.

That leaves only one day – today.

Any one can fight the battles of just one day.

It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities

- yesterday and tomorrow – that we break down.

It is not the experience of today drives people mad

- it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened yesterday

and the dread of what tomorrow may bring.

Let us therefore journey, but one day at a time.

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change

Courage to change the things I can

And the wisdom to know the difference.

### No. 12

Babies are Angels that fly to Earth

Their wings disappear at the time of their birth.

One look in their eyes and we are never the same

They're part of us now and that part has a name

That part is your heart and a bond that won't sever

Our babies are Angels, we love them forever.

### No. 13

Blessings from relatives, alternating with each verse.

Reader One: Bless this little boy,

Let him grow healthy and strong;

And when he faces indecision,

Help to show him right from wrong.

Reader Two: Bless this little boy,

Let love fill his life;

And while you watch over him,

Keep him free from strife.

Bless this little boy.

Keep him happy, safe and warm;

And when he faces danger.

## BLESSINGS AND BENEDICTIONS

Steer him away from harm.

Bless this little boy,  
teach him patience and trust;  
And if he follows the wrong path,  
Show him that the life best lived is honest.

Bless this little boy,  
Let him discover the things he loves;  
And when his days are dark,  
Show him the beauty the world is made of.

Bless this little boy,  
Tell him not to be afraid;  
And if he feels hopeless  
Let his faith never fade.

### No. 14

Now this is the day,  
Our child,  
Into the daylight  
You will go standing,  
Preparing for your day.

Our child, it is your day,  
This day,  
May your road be fulfilled,  
In your thoughts may we live,  
May we be the ones whom your thoughts will embrace,  
May you help us all to finish our roads

### No. 15

Everyone joins in a circle  
Celebrant:                   What is the name of this child?

Parents together:       (Child's Name)

The parents walk around the circle with the baby in their arms. Or the child is passed to each person in the circle who says a few words, for example.

Guest No. 1: I wish you a long life with health and happiness.

Guest No. 2: I wish you freedom from hunger and thirst.

Guest No. 3: I wish you freedom to think for yourself.

## BLESSINGS AND BENEDICTIONS

Guest No. 4: I wish that you will never be hungry or thirsty.

Guest No. 5: I wish that your thirst for knowledge is satisfied.

Guest: No. 6: I wish for you education and travel.

Guest: No. 7: I wish that you become a citizen of the world. Etc

### No. 16

Suitable for an adult

Do what is Just;

Oppose Evil;

Show mercy to all living things;

Love God with all your heart, body, mind and soul;

Love others as you would have them love you;

be assured that you are saved even unto everlasting life in paradise

And so, if you strive to hold within your heart these charges,  
the Lord will Bless you

and Keep you;

make his face shine upon you

and be gracious unto you;

Lift his Countenance unto you

and give you peace.

### No. 17

Little person who comes from beyond ourselves,

Welcome to this, the only world we have.

Welcome to the warmth of our bodies.

Welcome to the songs and feasts of people you do not know.

Our blessings is a touch, a friend you will know as your darkness turns to light.

### No. 18

(Baby) - today we officially welcome you. We wish you long life and much happiness.

May you face all challenges that come to you as a person of integrity,

May you continue to bring great joy to your parents, your grandparents, family,  
friends, and to all those who come to know you.

May beauty delight you and happiness uplift you.

May wonder fulfill you and love surround you.

May your step be steady and your arm be strong,

May your heart be peaceful and your word be true.

May you seek to learn, may you learn to live.

May you live to love, and may you love - always.

## Affirmation/Promises by Parents

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### No. 1

Parents: God, we are thankful for the many joys with which our lives have been blessed. But we are most thankful to You, at this hour, for this precious gift of new life which fills our hearts with joy and our spirits with the sense of immortality. As (Baby) has blessed us, we pray that we will always be a blessing to her.

Today, in the presence of those we love the most, we pray that You give us the strength of faith we will need as we commit ourselves to filling her days with love, bringing joy and celebration into our family, and meaning into her life.

### No. 2

Celebrant: A child is not a blank form to be molded, but rather a seed, containing what it will become within it. It is the role of the gardener, then, to ask, "How do I help it grow into what it is in its roots?"

(Parents) will now make their promises as parents, accepting their responsibilities to (Baby), and expressing their love for him and their hopes for his future.

Mother: We are your parents and we will care for you.  
We promise to reveal the adventure of life.  
We will love you unconditionally.  
We promise to teach you about joy and humour.

Father: We are your parents and we will care for you.  
We promise to embrace your hopes and dreams.  
We promise to open our hearts fully to your love.  
We promise to guide you, respect you and protect you.

### No. 3

Father: My Pledge as a Father  
I promise to love you – unconditionally.



## AFFIRMATION BY PARENTS

I promise to guard and guide you, physically, mentally and morally.

I promise to encourage soundness and strength – in your health, head and heart.

I promise to let your path unfold before you acting as a guide, mentor and friend.

I promise to acknowledge your accomplishments, recognizing the greatness inside you.

I promise to be a stand for integrity in our life together.

I promise to be open to your communication; Know that everything you say is received with an open heart.

I promise to be honest and direct in my communication to you.

Advice?

Be adventurous.

There is nothing to be afraid of. The world is a beautiful place, and we are part of it.

It stretches from the tops of the highest mountain to the depths of the greatest sea.

If you look closely you will see it in the palm of your hand.

It is the miracle. It is the miracle of life.

We are part of this miracle along with everything else.

Life is an adventure.

And it is everywhere.

Shy away from no experience, for each experience is unique.

Always there is a path unfolding.

I love you my daughter. May this gift of life be yours.

## AFFIRMATION BY PARENTS

### No. 4

Mother: My Pledge as a Mother

Being your Mum is a privilege that I can hardly find words to describe.

When I look down at you, I feel my heart expanding wider and wider with love for you my little one.

You are the most beautiful and peaceful little being and I am honoured that you chose me to be your carer, protector and Mother in this lifetime.

I promise to love you unconditionally and to assist you to walk your path and to support you with all my heart and soul. I promise to teach you what I know and to guide you in the ways that are true to my heart and soul.

I promise to cherish you, to hold you and to tell you how much you mean to me and how very much I love you.

I care for you beyond words.

Your cries reach to the core of my being and my will to come to your aid is indescribable.

Your smiles and quirky looks fill me with laughter and smiles.

When your bottom lip quivers, I melt with love.

When you cry and I nurse you to sleep in my arms, I know that you feel safe and loved and that is all that I need know.

When I have fed you and you fall into your blissful state, I am as proud as a human being can be and I am honoured to serve you. I promise to listen to you when you talk to me and when you don't.

With all my heart I love you.

Thanks for being here on this journey and adventure with me.

### No. 5

Celebrant: Welcome everybody to the ceremony that welcomes (Baby) into her new family. (Parents of the Baby) are so happy that you could be here with them as their family and extended family, to share your love and your blessings with their beautiful child. And

## AFFIRMATION BY PARENTS

perhaps most importantly, we thank (Baby) for bringing us all together in joy.

There are many ways to define a family. And although (Baby) and (Parents of the Baby) are bonded physically by genetics, they are also bonded by something deeper. Their 3 souls have chosen each other as companions and teachers for their journey in this life, and this is the truest spiritual sense of family. In addition to that, all of you here are part of the same bond.

On a soul level, you have all chosen each other as family members, whether or not you're related by blood. And now that (Baby) has joined the family and you're all here today, you can share your love in this special ceremony to make her welcome.

We'd like to begin by asking each of you to state your personal and special wishes for (baby) (each person takes a turn making a statement).

In the spirit of love, I ask you all now to make a solemn vow to this precious child. Do you agree to provide (Baby) with unwavering love throughout your lives, to support her highest endeavors, her growth and independence, and her wish to follow whatever path her heart chooses?

Everyone: I do.  
(Hold baby toward the four directions)

We turn to the east, the essence of air, to give us breath, openness, sight and an understanding that each new moment is a new opportunity for growth.

We turn to the South, essence of fire, to empower us with passion, energy and light.

We turn to the West, essence of water, to deepen our spiritual awareness and our capacity for feeling emotion.

We turn to the North, essence of earth, to ground and center us, and to give us a sense of home wherever we are.

We ask that this child be guided and blessed by her own instinct and inner light.

We wish for her the greatest love and peace, and the confidence and wisdom to find her own path in life.

## AFFIRMATION BY PARENTS

As her family, we will help lead her to her own inner strengths, so that she may fulfill all of her desires and potential as she grows through life.

May the earth give her strength and security to help keep her grounded and focused.

May the winds give her the gift of communication to help her understand others and to let others understand her.

May the waters teach her to listen to her own intuition and to understand the depths of love and emotion.

And may the flames of passion spark creativity, exuberance and life force.

### No. 6

Parents:

To this child, as to all children, we make these pledges: We will recognize your worth as a person, and help you to strengthen your sense of belonging to the human family.

We will give you our love so that you may grow with trust in yourself and in other people.

We will respect your right to be yourself and, at the same time, help you to understand the rights of others.

We will encourage you always to search for the truth. We will give you the opportunity to develop your own understanding of life and a respect for all living beings.

### No. 7

Celebrant:-

By bringing your child to this service of dedication you are sharing with your families and friends some of the joy that is yours as parents. Will you endeavour, to the best of your ability, to provide for (Baby) a home of love and security and to be to her an example, which she may safely follow?

Parents:

I will.

### No. 8

Celebrant:

In bringing your child to be named before family and friends, you acknowledge that he is more than your own creation and private concern, and you declare your wish and purpose to raise him



## AFFIRMATION BY PARENTS

according to your best efforts according to the values which you know deep in your hearts to be true.

Many of these you pledged when you committed your lives to each other. Some of them you learned from your own parents. They are broader and deeper than mere rote or dogma, since they are moral and ethical standards toward which you have always strived.

To this end, will you teach your child, by example, to walk in the ways of truth, love and compassion?

Parents: I will.



Celebrant: (Parents), what Hopes and Dreams do you have for your daughter?

Reply (to be read and/or written by the parents):

- Parents:
1. We want her to grow up knowing good from bad.
  2. We want her to be able to use her own good judgment when making decisions.
  3. We want her to never fear to ask questions.
  4. We want her to ALWAYS QUESTION, and never have "blind faith" in anything.
  5. We want her to know she can be whatever she wishes to be, and that we, her Mother and Father (Mum and Dad) will always support her.



Celebrant: (Parents of the Baby), you have brought your child here to be welcomed into the community, and into this circle of your family and friends. What name have you chosen?

Parents: We have chosen the name (Baby).

Celebrant: Would you like to explain to everyone why you chose this name?

Parents: We chose (Baby) because.....

Celebrant: Will you care for (Baby), clothe him, shelter and protect him, for as long as he needs you?

Parents: I will.

## AFFIRMATION BY PARENTS

Celebrant: Will you try and show (Baby) by your example, how to live a good life and help her acquire the basic human values of kindness, honesty and tolerance of others?

Parents: I will.

Celebrant: Will you surround (Baby) with affection and unconditional love? Will you encourage and support him as he grows up, helping, especially in times of trouble, and making as sure as you can that no harm comes near him?

Parents: I will.

# Naming Ceremony

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## No. 1

Celebrant: Names are an important part of everyone's life, and names are what give each and every one of us individuality.

(Parents of the Baby), what name have you chosen for your child?

Parents: (Baby)

Celebrant: (Baby), your name was chosen with great care, and it was chosen just for you. We all hope that you will inherit the best traits of (the name or the person for whom the child was named), and grow into a caring person who is healthy and happy, and with wisdom to help you all through life.

(Parents of the Baby) will you as parents care for (Baby), keep her clothed, sheltered and protected, for as long as she needs you, as best you can?

Parents: I will.

Celebrant: Will you comfort (Baby) when she is distressed, laugh with her when she is happy?

Parents: I will.

Celebrant: Will you try in every way possible to raise (Baby) in such a way that she will feel loved and secure?

Parents: I will.

Celebrant: (Sibling's Name), here is your baby sister. Will you try to be kind to her and help look after her?

Brothers/Sisters: I will.

## NAMING CEREMONY

### No. 2

#### For parents and grandparents

Celebrant: Do you, (Father of the Baby), commit yourself to (Mother of the Baby), as her partner, promising to support her as a mother of your child?

Father: I do.

Celebrant: Do you give yourself to your son as his father, promising to act out of your love for him, respecting and supporting his uniqueness, and eliciting the best from him?

Father: I do.

### No. 3

#### For all guests

Celebrant: This community gathered here will be especially important to this child. We are her people. As she comes of age, we will appear to her as part of her world. She will look among us for companionship and leadership and to all of us for support.

By watching us, she will learn how life works. She will know the way human society works by how we create our relationships here.

Do you pledge to support this child, to respect her uniqueness, and to elicit the best from her and this family?

Everyone: I do.

Celebrant: How shall this child be called and how did you choose this name?

Parents: (Baby)

Celebrant: On behalf of all who shall know her, with the hope that she finds among us all the nourishment she needs, I welcome (Baby) to our community.

### No. 4

Celebrant: Will the Mother of the infant please bring the child forward.

Family and friends, I ask you to look upon this infant. He is the newest member of our family. He will grow strong and healthy surrounded by our love and nurturing. For him to be a part of our lives we must have a name by which to call him.



## NAMING CEREMONY

What is this child to be named?

Father/Mother: This child is to be named (Baby).

Celebrant: (Baby), welcome to our hearts and homes.

Celebrant: Does anyone have a gift to bless (Baby) with?

Guests: This gift symbolises (peace/love/etc) which I hope you will find in your life.

Celebrant: Will the Godparents please step forward?

(Godparents), the parents of (Baby) value your morals and believe that you each of you have much you can teach (Baby).

They would ask that you serve as the teachers and guardians of (Baby) in the event that they are no longer able to.

Will you accept this responsibility and honor?

Godparents: We would be honoured to.

No. 5

Celebrant: (Parents of the Baby), you have accepted your responsibilities as parents, you have professed your love for your child and your hopes for his future. I now ask you, what first name do you give this child?

Parents: We give you this first name, (Baby), which means (Explanation of Name). May you exemplify the meaning of that name in the way you live your life.

Celebrant: What middle name do you give this child?

Parents: We give you this middle name. (Baby), meaning (Explanation of the Name) and bestowed on you in honor of (relative/friend) May you carry with you her (optimism/honesty/etc)

Celebrant: What last name do you give this child?

Parents: We give you our last name, (Parent's Name) may it stand for your heritage. We give you our name, may it honour your children, too.

## NAMING CEREMONY

### No. 6

Variation might be for all guests to say, "We welcome (Baby) to the world" or "This child is named (Baby) and may we look after him as friends and family."

### No. 7

Celebrant: We give the child a name in this ceremony and by doing so we declare that the child is an individual, a unique and a separate person with a dignity and a life of her own.

In giving her a name we declare that we will respect her as herself and give her the freedom to be herself.

We have a public ceremony to declare that all of us are responsible for the care and development of all children.

It is our task to give them our ideals and our hopes. It is our task to give them a world of peace and justice in which to grow.

By presenting the child to this gathering, the parents acknowledge that the child is more than a private possession, but is a new being in whom we all have a responsibility and whom we all welcome into this community.

## Conclusion

The conclusion summarizes the theme of the ceremony. It can be just a few words by the Celebrant, or a poem or song dedicated by relatives or friends. After the formal conclusion a certificate, detailing the child's name and date of birth is then handed to the parents. Where practicable, the baby receives a Certificate explaining his or her name, and the characteristics of that name.

To mark the occasion some parents like to surround the event with symbolism. One of these is the planting of a tree. This can take place during the ceremony or immediately after the ceremony.

Parents will have already prepared a hole. When the symbolism is to be enacted the parents, or the godparents place the tree in the ground. They and the parents will be the first to place some soil in the hole. All other guests, including children, can be asked to participate. Planted also can be the guests good wishes for the baby's future.

Having planted the tree the godparents, or the parents, will water it with a watering can placed close by for this purpose.

A common practice is also for a toast to be proposed immediately the ceremony is concluded. The drink will be poured out immediately the ceremony is finished and distributed among the guests, beginning with the parents and the godparents.

If the ceremony is being marked by the receiving of the gifts, the unwrapping of the gifts could be left right to the end. The gifts of the godparents will be unwrapped first, and if they happen to be jewellery, could be placed on the baby at the same time. Where the gift has specific significance the giver might like to explain it as he or she hands it to the baby.

Some parents also like to offer a gift to the people directly involved with the ceremony, so that as the Celebrant hands the Certificate to the person concerned, the parents hand him or her a gift to mark their thanks for their involvement.

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### No. 1

In our contact with (Baby) let us make it our responsibility to show by our action what it is to live life with integrity, honesty, fairness and love towards fellow human beings.

## CONCLUSION

Being aware of how interrelated our lives are let us show (Baby) that a good life is one where each of us is strengthened by the affection and friendship of others. May we all benefit from our involvement with this child, and with each other.

I congratulate (Parents of the Baby) on the birth of their baby, and the god parents on their willingness to share with them the care and concern for the welfare of (Baby).

May her life be filled with the good things of life; and in particular with the love and laughter of those who make up her world.

### No. 2

(Baby), we wish you a long life full of happiness and good health, in a loving and peaceful world. May you bring joy to your parents and to all those lives you touch. May you contribute to making this world a better and happier place.

This ceremony will in no way inhibit (Baby) from seeking the truth during his life and any future religious or non-religious commitments of belief. In fact, it is the duty of us all in the coming years, to present him with a broad and balanced view of life.

I conclude this ceremony by summerising the thought which has been the theme of today's ceremony. Let us all be aware that our lives are interrelated with each other and with God, that this ceremony today has been meant to strengthen the affection and relationship we have with each other, God and with little (Baby)

I thank you all for your attention and participation and I thank (Parents of the Baby) for the honour of being asked to officiate at this celebration.

God be with you all.

### No. 3

This ceremony today, will in no way prevent (Baby's Name) from seeking the truth during her life on any future religious commitments or beliefs. (Parents of the Baby) have given (Baby) the freedom to choose her own religion. We all hope that (Baby) will have a happy, exciting and fulfilling life.

(Baby), may life's richest joys and blessings be yours. May you grow in health of body and mind to full adulthood and may it be your good fortune to play some worthy part in making life more pleasant for those whose paths you cross.

I have pleasure in presenting to you (Child's Name)

(Presentation of Certificate)

On behalf of (Parents of the Baby) I would like to thank you all for taking part in



## CONCLUSION

this ceremony. Please enjoy the rest of the day and join in (Baby's) celebration prepared by (Parents of the Baby).

### No. 4

Presentation of Child:

We came today to welcome a child, to recognize a family, and to acknowledge our responsibility to the next generation. We have achieved this and more. We are blessed by the spirit of joy in this room, the intertwined lives of family and friends, and the love and support for (Baby) and his parents.

(Baby), may you be a light for yourself and others.

May the longtime sun shine upon you.

May all love surround you.

And may the sweet light within you guide your way on.

Relatives and friends, I am honoured to introduce to you (Baby!)

### No. 5

We use a flower to remind us of the beauty and freshness of life. We dedicate ourselves to the task of nourishing the beauty and freshness of this child and of all children. We dedicate you with our love into the fellowship of this community.

(Giving a flower to the parents, to hold on behalf of the child, the celebrant continues) May this budding flower be as the unfolding life before you - a life of beauty and peace.

We have come to welcome you, a new member of our human community. Without a name you have come to us, but your name shall be (Baby). By this name people will call you and to this name you will respond. This is a new name to you regardless of the number of people who have worn it. May you wear this name with honour and may people look upon your name with kindness and respect.

May you have joy in listening and joy in speaking, joy in hearing and joy in seeing, joy in thinking and joy in learning. May your hours be bright in play and work, in friendship and in love.

### No. 6

We give thanks for the gift of children. Although we cannot save our children from trial or danger, we can, by example and encouragement, help them to find love, courage and wisdom in our midst.

## CONCLUSION

We will learn from them as they experience life and we shall welcome the day when they take their place among us, challenging us and offering us a new companionship.

For the gift of childhood whose innocence and laughter keep the world young, we give thanks. May this new life which we have accepted into our midst, receive the gifts of health, love and wisdom and in turn give back to the common heritage which has nurtured him.

### No. 7

I commend (Baby) to your loving care. Watch over her and cherish her, see she is happy and honest and true.

On behalf of all who shall know her, with the hope that she finds among us all the love and support she needs, I welcome (Baby) to this community.

Please raise your glasses to (Baby) - her future health and happiness!

Finally, to mark the day I would now like to ask if you would help us provide a small memento of today by writing a dedication to (Baby) in her birth book, which is making its way around the room. Your words may be as brief or as lengthy as you wish.

Thank you all.

### No. 8

#### Appropriate for adult

(Baby) from this day onward, no matter how dark the world may seem nor how alone and lost you may feel, you shall never be alone again, never without hope or assurance of final victory.

You are a citizen of God in this world and in heaven. The love of God shall always be with you.

Let the light of God's Truth surrounds you, the love of God encompass you, the power of God protects you, the presence of God watch over you and wherever you are God be with you always.

May the Lord Bless you and Keep you:

Make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;

Lift his Countenance unto you and give you peace.

## CONCLUSION

No. 9

We welcome you!

You are your parents' dreams realized, their hope fulfilled.

You are the latest and best chapter in the unfolding of the lives of your Mother and Father

You are brand new—a symbol of today and tomorrow

Your life is a new and clean slate upon which people and events will leave their impression.

You are a bridge over which we who welcome you can gaze from this day into future days, from our generation into your generation.

You are the newest link in the endless chain of human history.

Baby, we welcome you into our family and the community of relatives and friends.

Announcements

Before we finalize our ceremony, (Parents of the Baby) have asked me to make an announcement. After the ceremony, you are cordially invited to the reception lunch etc.,.

No. 10

We wish to the new child  
A heart that can be beguiled  
By a flower  
That the wind lifts  
As it passes.  
If the storms break for him,  
May the trees shake for him  
Their blossoms down.

In the night that he is troubled,  
May a friend wake for him,  
So that his time be doubled,  
And at the end of all loving and love,  
May the Man above  
Give him a crown.