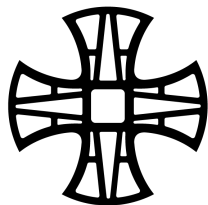


A
HOME BLESSING
LITURGY



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A Home Blessing Liturgy

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The liturgy in this booklet is adapted from the services of various sources including: "Celebration for a Home" and "A Shorter Blessing of a Home" in *The Book of Occasional Services* 2018 (pp.156-167); also, "An Anglican House Blessing" and the various sources cited therein, which can be found online at hopeanglican.us/housblessing.pdf, as well as "The Blessing of a Home" and the various resources generously provided by Fr. Trevor McMaken at *City of Light Anglican Church*.

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INTRODUCTION

In the Christian imagination there is a profound sense of sacredness to the spaces we inhabit. *A Home Blessing Liturgy* intends to help us remember and reimagine that our common places are, in fact, places of holy habitation—sacred space that is set apart, where we ought to expect to encounter God in every room, at the table, inside the closet, and behind every nook and cranny.

Despite its seemingly ordinariness, our dwellings are actually meant to draw us deeper into a participation of God's divine life. What if the bedroom was a place where we learn to acknowledge our need for rest, and that our true rest is found in Christ? Our sleeping and waking are daily rhythms that remind us to die to ourselves and our own strength, and in turn, rise to walk in the newness of life brought through our union in Christ's death and resurrection. What if the bathroom was re-envisioned as a space where water is the symbol that reminds us of how the Lord cleanses us from all sin that we might serve him, and this was sacramentally embodied in our baptism? What if the dining room table was lived as an extension of the Eucharistic Table? A place where we lift our hearts up to the Lord and give him thanks for both food and drink to sustain us and make us glad in him. At the table we learn to feast on the goodness of God as well as hunger for the great Wedding Feast of the Lamb. What if our living rooms were a space set apart for fellowship, which reminded us that we live in communion with one another? And yet, our communion extends beyond family, friends, and the church visible, but that we are connected to the communion of saints and are surrounded on the sofa by a great cloud of witnesses. Perhaps heaven and earth are not so distant after all.

May this liturgy stir your heart and imagination in such ways, to invite the Lord's blessing into our spaces so that we may live always aware of the presence of God amidst our common places.

*Andrew Preston
Ministry Resident
Epiphany, 2021*

CONCERNING THE SERVICE

On the day of the house blessing, but before beginning the liturgy, explain to the assembled household, family, or friends the nature and purposes of the house blessing liturgy, along with the different roles as participants in the reading of Scripture and as intercessors with the prayers. Assign roles so that everybody knows what their job is.

Then, if possible, gather where there is a cross present. The cross and a candle may then be carried from room to room, preferably by a family member, beginning in the entryway and ending in the living room. The sequence between other rooms throughout the procession can be in any order convenient for you and your household.

THE BLESSING OF A HOME

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you.**

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

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, grant to this home the grace of your presence, that you may be known to be the inhabitants of this dwelling, and the defender of this household; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Peace be with this house and with all who live here. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: When Christ took flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary, he made his home with us. Let us now pray that he will enter this home and bless it with his presence. May he always be here among us; may he nurture our love for each other, share in our joys, comfort us in our sorrows, inspire us by his teachings and example, and transform us by his Holy Spirit. O Lord, let those who dwell here seek to make this home before all else a dwelling place of the love of Christ.

THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

*Traditionally, a chalking is made above the lintel or on the doorway with the markings: 20 + C + M + B + 21. The letters are an abbreviation for the Latin phrase: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means: "May Christ bless this home." Additionally, the + sign represents the cross along with the four seasons of the year, and the numerals refer to the year 20-21. Another traditional meaning to the letters C, M, B is a mnemonic device for the names Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, the names for the three Magi.*

Leader: O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the nations and the glory of your people, bless this house and all who dwell here. May it be a place of peace, love, and health, that we may rejoice in the gifts and graces you have bestowed upon us through Christ, who lives and reigns with you, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

The doorway may now be marked with symbols in chalk with this blessing:

Leader: May all who come to our home rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for one other would extend to others that they also may know your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ROOM BLESSINGS

Prayers for several rooms of the house are offered at this time with the leader and the members of the household moving from room to room (with a cross and lighted candle if desired), and concluding the procession in the living room.

The following Scripture readings and prayers of blessing are to be offered and may be used in any convenient sequence throughout the home.

THE ENTRANCE

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

REVELATION 3:20

Leader: The Lord shall watch over your going out and coming in:

All: **From this time forth and for evermore. Amen.**

Leader: O God, heavenly Father, we acknowledge that you are Lord of heaven and earth. Protect our going out and our coming in. Be our constant companion in the way, and welcome us upon our return, so that in our coming and going we may be sustained by your presence, O Lord Jesus Christ. Let the hospitality of this home be shared with all who visit, and that those who enter here may know your love and peace. **Amen.**

THE KITCHEN

Jesus said, "let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves."

LUKE 622:26-27

Leader: The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord:

All: **And you give them their food in due season. Amen.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord, King of the universe, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives, filling the hungry with good things. May this kitchen be a source of abundance, peace, and restoration. Make us grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others. **Amen.**

THE DINING ROOM

Jesus said, "For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

JOHN 6:33-35

Leader: The Lord brings forth good from the earth, and wine to gladden our hearts:

All: **And oil to make a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen the heart. Amen.**

Leader: We lift up our hearts to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. We give you thanks and praise for the gift of food and drink to sustain our lives and to make us glad in you. May your abiding presence rest upon this table. As we feast, may you satisfy us as we look forward to the day when we will be with you in your eternal kingdom at the wedding feast of the Lamb. **Amen.**

THE BEDROOM

And the effect of righteousness will be peace,
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.
My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

ISAIAH 32:17-18

Leader: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping:

All: **That awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. Amen.**

Leader: O God of life and love, may this bedroom be a haven of solace and place of refreshment. Abide with us, and be our comfort and true rest. In our sleeping may we know your peace; and in our waking may we rise to serve you and walk in newness of life all our days. **Amen.**

THE CHILD'S BEDROOM

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

MATTHEW 19:14

Leader: Children are a heritage from the Lord:

All: **and the fruit of the womb is a gift.**

Leader: Watch over the child who sleeps here, dear Lord. We ask your blessing on this room and this bed, and pray that you set apart this space as a place of physical and spiritual safety. Reveal yourself in dreams, and draw near, that this child may know and receive your presence, love, guidance and strength forever and ever. **Amen.**

THE STUDY OR OFFICE

Hear, O' Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all you heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you shall be on your heart.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-6

Leader: Teach us, O Lord, where wisdom is to be found:

All: **And show us the place of understanding. Amen.**

Leader: O God of truth, eternal ground of all that is, beyond space and time yet within them, transcending all things yet pervading them: Show yourself to us, for we go about in ignorance; reveal yourself to us, for it is you that we seek, O Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE BATHROOM

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.

EZEKIEL 36:25-26

Leader: Hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering:

All: **For our bodies have been washed with pure water. Amen.**

Leader: O holy God, thank you for the gift of water. Over it, the Spirit moved in the beginning, and through it you led the people of Israel out of bondage into redemption. In the incarnation of your Son you made our flesh the instrument of your self-revelation: Grant us, O Lord, a proper respect and reverence for our bodies as a temple of your Spirit, that we may glorify you with them, keeping ourselves clean, whole, and sound, for we are not our own. May we find refreshment in both body and spirit in this place that we might serve you. **Amen.**

THE WORKROOM

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

Leader: Prosper, O Lord, the work of our hands:

All: **Prosper our handiwork. Amen.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, you created us in your image and gave us purpose. May this workroom be a place in which we labor for your kingdom and for your glory. As we work at the tasks you've placed before us, be present with us while we labor as workers with you; and may we share in the joy of your creation through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE STORAGE ROOM OR GARAGE

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MATTHEW 6:19-21

Leader: We have brought nothing into the world:

All: **And we cannot take anything out of the world. Amen.**

Leader: Almighty and merciful God, who sees with kindness our need for material sustenance, we ask you to bless this space, that what your mercy has kindly provided will not be lost through human weakness, but that our possessions may be put into the service for your kingdom, stewarded with wisdom, and sustained by your mercy for the glorify your holy name. **Amen.**

THE GUEST ROOM

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

HEBREWS 13:1-2

Leader: Open your homes to each other without complaining:

All: **And let us use the gifts we have received from God for the good of others. Amen.**

Leader: Loving God, you have taught us to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us: Bless those who from time to time share the hospitality of this home. May your fatherly care shield them, the love of your dear 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.**

THE LIVING ROOM

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

Leader: Oh, how good and pleasant it is:

All: **When God's people live together in unity! Amen.**

Leader: O God, give your blessing to all who share this room, that we 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.**

All return to the entrance of the home where the liturgy began.

CONCLUSION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: And now we are bold to pray together:

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Leader: Be our shelter, Lord, when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return, and at last receive us into the dwelling place you have prepared for us in your Father's house, where you live for ever and ever. **Amen!**

All: **Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

Leader: May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and may the word of Christ in all its richness dwell in us, so that whatever we do in word and in work, we will do in the name of the Lord.
Amen

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye Heavenly Host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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