



## What is involved in a Thanksgiving Service?



Thanksgiving is a different service. It is not the same as a Christening and does not involve baptism. It is a special service that is used to say thank you to God for your child and to pray for God's blessing. This is a service that recognises some parents may not wish to have their children baptised immediately.

We gather to give thanks for your child, family and friends, and to support you in your responsibilities with prayer and love. The service can be flexible but usually includes: A Bible reading, a talk, prayers of thanksgiving and a blessing.

### **The Sponsors**

Supporting friends can be chosen as those who will support you in the upbringing of your child and fulfilling a role akin to godparents. In a thanksgiving service supporting friends are known as sponsors.



### **The Commitment**

Parents and their supporting friends are invited to stand together to present your child for thanksgiving. The minister will ask... *"Do you receive this child as a gift from God?"* and *"Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?"* The expected response is *"We do."*

The minister asks the supporting friends... *"Will you do all that you can to support the parents in the bringing up of the named child."* The same question is then addressed to the wider friends and family, with the expected response... *"With the help of God we will."*

### **The Symbols**

**The Name:** parents or a supporting friend is asked to give the child's name and then the minister asks for God's blessing on the child.

**The Tea-light:** At the end of the service your child will be presented with a tea-light. This is to remind you of this thanksgiving service and that Jesus is the light of the world.

**The Gospel:** A gospel will be given to the family

### **Prayer and thanksgiving**

The Church gives thanks for the child and asks for God's blessing for the child and for the family and all those that will support them.



## What is involved in a Christening Service?

During a Christening service your child will be baptised with water. The baptism is about welcoming your child into the community of God's people, giving them a place where they will always belong and becoming part of the worldwide Church.

Baptism begins the journey of Christian faith it is the first step in becoming a follower of Jesus. There are several moments in the Christening that have very special meaning these are:

### **The Godparents**

The task of the godparents is to participate in the service and help the child to grow strong in the faith of the church.

### **The Promises**

You and the godparents will be asked to make important promises. These involve your commitment to the Christian faith. We ask you to consider these promises honestly. The Church also promises to welcome your child into the Church family and uphold them in their new life in Christ. We all seek God's help when we make these promises.

### **The Symbols**

**The Oil:** Special oil is used to mark the sign of the cross on your child's head. This is a significant moment because it marks your child as belonging to God. The minister will say... *"Christ claims you as his own, receive the sign of the Cross."*

**The Water:** Water is blessed in the Church's font and is poured over your child's head. This is the heart of the Christening and is the actual baptism of your child. It is a sign of new beginning and becoming a part of God's family. The minister says: *"I baptise you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen."*

**The Candle:** At the end of the service your child will be presented with a candle this is given as a symbolic reminder of Christ the Light of the World. The minister will say: *"Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God."*

### **Prayers and Welcome:**

The Church prays for your child, family and all those that will support their journey of faith. Everyone present welcomes you and your child into the family of the Church.

