

Subject: Baptisms, Christenings, Baby Dedications

BABY CHRISTENING

Minister: Beloved, you have brought this/these child/ren here, remembering that s/he/they is/are expression/s of Spirit, just as you and I are and just as all of creation is. As Kahlil Gibran put it:

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for Itself.
They come through you but not from you.
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts.
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit,
Not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.
The Archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and
He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.
Let your bending in the Archer's hand be for gladness;
For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is
stable.

It is your privilege to stand here as his/her/their sponsor. Guard well this
trust.

Jesus recognized the divinity of all persons, and declared that, "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, shall in no way enter therein. And He took the children in his arms, and blessed them ..." (Mark 10:14-16) We, too, recognize that divinity, and treasure the infants/children entrusted to us. We understand that that innocence and trust is given to us as a model and constant reminder of the value of simplicity and faith.

Let us pray: Now recognizing that God is Love, is Life and Full Expression, I know that there is only One Life and that Life is the Life of God – It is the essence of all life and it is expressing right here, right now and forever. I am one with and inseparable from that One Life. What is true of me is true of all. I particularly recognize that Truth about this/these beautiful child/ren, _____ and his/her/their

mother/father/family/brother/sister/other family members
_____ and sponsor/s _____.

I recognize _____ (each child) as the radiant expression of Spirit that s/he is. I know that s/he is whole, perfect and complete, that s/he is pure potential. I know that as individualized Spirit engaged in this human experience that s/he is unlimited. I joyously acknowledge him/her as the blessing that s/he brings to us. (Repeat about each child if more than one is being blessed on this occasion.)

As I recognize that this/these infant/s is/are (an) individualization/s of Spirit, I know that what is true of him/her/them is true of _____ (parents/family members/sponsors). Each is a conscious expression of Spirit. I know that each is Love imbued with Wisdom, Divine Guidance, Compassion and Mindfulness. I know that each is fully prepared to assume the responsibilities of teaching, guiding and leading this/these infants into fully expression of their true nature.

_____ (family and sponsors), speak the name of this/these child/ren aloud and speak these words directly to the child:

Family Members and Sponsors: _____ (name of each child), I recognize you. You are Love. You are Spirit incarnated. You are a whole, perfect and complete Spiritual being, here in human experience. You come as an expression of God. I recognize our Oneness. I commit to you to be mindful of you, to be compassionate, to nurture and support you. I draw on Divine Wisdom and Divine Guidance to be all I need to be to fulfill my commitment to you. I love you.

Minister: Let each of us, here, now, commit to support _____(name each infant) and his/her parent/s, _____, family member/s _____ and sponsors, _____ in fully expressing Spirit-incarnate, in growing to greater and greater awareness of his/her/their relationship with Spirit, in honoring all other aspects of God's creation, and in joyously, abundantly and gratefully engaging in life.

Please accept one of these rose buds that just begun to open as a symbol of the life of this child/ren to which/whom we have each committed. This is a beginning. I bless it. I honor. I express my deep, deep gratitude for the knowingness we share – that of God being all there is! Thank you all for allowing me to be part of this very special occasion. And so it is!