

Blessing for a Home

It is not uncommon for people to ask for a blessing of their home. The reasons are diverse. A service of blessing may mark the beginning of a new chapter that comes with moving in or a time of transition. Alternatively, a service of blessing may anticipate or follow a significant event (e.g. a new birth or a death).

This service of blessing is intended to be easily adaptable for any number of situations. You may like to tweak the words of the prayers to better fit the occasion. Alternatively, you may like to remove parts from or add parts to the service so that it better reflects the reason for gathering.

GATHERING

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa te atawhai me te rangimārie o te Atua.
Grace and peace be with us all from God.

A candle may be lit

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock,” says the Lord.

“If you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in and eat with you and you with me.”

Rev 3:20

The Lord is here.

God’s Spirit is with us.

O Lord, open our lips,

and our mouths will give you praise.

Ps 51:1

WELCOME

Some words may be offered that articulate why the blessing is taking place

HĪMENE or HYMN

OPENING PRAYER

E te Atua, eternal God,
you have made your home among us,
going where we go and staying where we stay.
Nau mai, kuhu mai, e Wairua Tapu, welcome to this home.
Dwell among us here.

These ordinary walls and roof and floorboards are blessed,
not because some magic words have been said,
but because everyday human life is lived here.
And you are present with us in the everyday.

*Some words may be said here to acknowledge the particular circumstances of
the house blessing.*

E te Atua, you know us deeper than we know ourselves.
You know what we bring to this place:
our burdens, our scars, our wounds, our history;
as well as our hopes, our desires, and our deep capacity to love and be loved.
We acknowledge all we are before you.
Open our hearts, bodies and minds
to witness to your healing and creative love in this place.
May this house become a home,
in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health,
in work and in rest, in hospitality and in solitude,
in life and in death. Amen.

READING(S) FROM SCRIPTURE

*You may like to follow the reading(s) with a time of reflective silence, a brief homily, or
an opportunity for sharing thoughts within the group.*

With an emphasis on hospitality: Genesis 18:1-8

With an emphasis on comfort and safety: Psalm 23

After a death: Isaiah 25:6-10

In the need for healing: Mark 2:1-12

In the need for healing: Mark 5:21-43

With an emphasis on generosity: Luke 19:1-10

With an emphasis on God-with-us: John 1:14-18

In the context of a harmful past: John 20:19-23

PRAYER for HEALING and PEACE

Simply skip over this prayer if it is inappropriate to the context

Living God, we pause to attend to your sanctifying presence with us...

Speak your healing words of peace in this place.

Speak peace, O God, to the dark memories

confined in these walls and in our own hearts:

the fear, despair, burdens and anguish that have remained hidden from the light;

a past locked away, stagnating unseen and unspoken,

and yet reaching ever into the present.

Unlock the doors and windows.

Shine your light into the darkest crevice.

Blow your Spirit into the dustiest corner.

That this house and our lives will no longer be tombs to the past,

but a womb for your resurrection life to grow.

Speak peace, O God, to the fears and anxieties of the present.

We recall the words of the Psalmist

that unless you build the house,

those who build it labour in vain.

it is in vain that we rise up early and go late to rest,

eating the bread of anxious toil;

for you give sleep to your beloved.

Psalm 127:1-2

Cast out all fear and anxiety for the present, we pray.

May this house be a place of rest for [name(s)],

and a home as they make their life together here.

Breathe living breath, O God, into this place and into [name(s)].

Even as this house is a place of rest,

may it also be a place of creativity and recreation;

a place of hospitality and welcome;

a place of care, compassion, and healing;
a place to be sent from and to be called back to.
May it be for [name(s)] a place in which they come to glimpse
your renewing life disrupting our everyday existence.
Make the ordinary extraordinary and the mundane sacred.

We pray these things in Jesus' name,
in whom the whole of our living and dying has been called blessed. Amen.

DECLARATION of PEACE

Kia tau te rangimarie o te Karaiti ki runga i a koutou.
May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

BLESSING and DEDICATION of the HOME

Even though heaven cannot contain you, O God,
we confess that [in Jesus] you have come to go where we go
and to dwell where we dwell.
May your eyes be open night and day towards this house,
which we dedicate in your loving name.
May your name be inscribed on its walls and foundations,
on its windows and doors, in its garden and soil,
on the breeze that blows through it,
that all who enter here may know your deep and lasting peace.
Bless [names] in their work of homemaking.
May the memories they create in this place
bear witness to your resurrecting love
and your kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven.
You may like to conclude the prayer with the Lord's Prayer:

We dedicate this house in an act of prayer,
praying together the words that Jesus taught his disciples:

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen.*

*E to mātou Mātua i te rangi,
kia tapu tōu ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tau e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.
Homai ki a mātou āiane
he taro mā mātou mo tēnei rā.
Murua o mātou hara,
me mātou hoki e muru nei
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
Aua hoki mātou e kawea
kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino.
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga,
te kaha, me te kororia,
Āke, āke, āke, Amine.*

HĪMENE or HYMN

BLESSING

*Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhingatahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu,
ake, ake, ake Amine.*

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all,
now and forever, Amen.*

OR:

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