

BLESSING OF A HOME



St. James United Church of Christ
135 Myrtle Avenue
Havertown, PA 19083

The Blessing of a Home

The blessing of a home encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others.

AT THE GATEWAY

The family or householder(s) and any friends gather outside the gateway or at the end of the pathway to the front door.

**The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.**

**Enter the gates with thanksgiving in your heart.
Come into God's presence with praise.**

ONTO THE LAND

The householder/group moves onto the land on which the house or building stands.

The earth is God's, and all that is in it, the world and all those who dwell there.

**The Lord your God cares for the land.
God watches over it season by season.**

**O God of earth and sky, you visit the land and bless it, you greatly enrich it, you water it abundantly and bless its growth with your goodness. You formed us from the dust of the ground.
You breathed into us the breath of life.**

OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

The householder/group moves around the outside of the house or building.

**Except the Lord build the house,
their labor is but lost that build it.**

**Encircle this dwelling place with your protection, O God;
may your holy angels encompass these walls,
and peace be within them.**

Open the windows and doors of this house that the light and love of your Holy Spirit may shine within, a light in the world for warmth and welcome.

ENTRY

The group moves to immediately outside the front door.

**In the name of God,
peace to this house/place.
God make it a haven for all who live here.**

‘Behold I stand at the door and knock,’ says the Lord (*knock at the door*). ‘If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you and you with me.’ (Revelation 3:20)

**Blessed be God who dwells in love.
Blessed be God who gives peace and shelter. Amen.**

God of hearth and home, makers of love and laughter, make this a place for reflection and restoration, rest and renewal, a place where the life of *say the name(s) of those living in the house* may find its strength.

**The Lord watch over your going out and your coming in
from this time forward and forevermore.**

AT THE LIVING ROOM

The householder/group moves into the living room.

**Indwelling God, you are ever welcome in this house.
May we hear and share your Word.**

Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap, because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back. (Luke 6: 36-38)

O how good and pleasant it is, when God’s people live together in unity.

**Above everything, love one another fervently,
for love covers many sins.**

**God,
you have made us to need each other and to grow best with companions; bless
those who shall sit or talk or work together here. May they share your care
and understanding.**

AT THE BEDROOM

The householder/group moves to each bedroom in turn.

**Guide us waking, O God,
and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we
may rest in peace.**

**I lie down in peace and take my rest
for it is in God alone I dwell unafraid.**

**God of the night, may this be a holy and blessed place for *(name those whose
bedroom it is)* and all who may sleep here. Here may they know your loving
presence, find rest for their fatigue and peace for their anxiety.**

**May your holy angels guard them,
and your continual blessing strengthen them.**

AT THE BATHROOM

The householder/group moves to the bathroom.

**Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,
having our bodies washed with pure water.**

**Blessed are you, our Savior Jesus Christ,
fountain of living water springing up to eternal life;
in you is our baptism, in you is our faith.**

**Blessed are you God of the rain, the rivers and the lakes.
you give water for life and health to refresh and cleanse all creatures.**

FOR A STUDY

The householder/group moves to the place where studying is done.

**Teach us, O God,
where wisdom is to be found,
and show us the place of understanding.**

Seek your God and you will be found.

Search for God with all your heart and with all your mind.

O God, the source of all wisdom, may this be a place of reflection and awareness, of knowledge and understanding.

Show yourself for us, lest we go about in ignorance; reveal yourself to us, for in you we know the incarnate word.

FOR A WORKSHOP/ART STUDIO/CRAFT OR SEWING AREA

The householder/group moves to the workshop, /art studio, craft or sewing area.

Many there are who rely upon their hands and are skillful in their own creativity and work.

**Prosper, O God, the work of our hands.
Prosper our handiwork.**

**O God,
your blessed son worked with his hands in the carpenter's shop at Nazareth:
be present we pray with those who work in this place. Give them work till
their life ends, and life till their work is done, that laboring together with you
they may share the joy of your creation.**

FOR A GARDEN OR TERRACE

The householder/group moves to the garden or terrace.

**As the earth brings forth its blossom, or bushes in a garden burst into flower,
so shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise blossom before all the
people.**

The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

**Jesus our good companion,
often you withdrew with your friends
for quiet and refreshment;
be present with your servants in this place.
Make it a place of serenity and peace.**

AT THE KITCHEN

The householder/group moves to the kitchen.

**You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt so wondrously with you.**

**The eyes of all wait upon you O God
and you give them their food in due season.**

**God of garden, farm and factory
may what is prepared here bring strength and health.
Bless the hands that work in this place,
nourish us with goodness
and give us grateful hearts for daily bread.**

May Christ our constant guest make our humblest meal a welcome offering.

AT THE DINING ROOM

The householder/group moves to the dining room or area.

**The living God gave you from heaven rain
and fruitful seasons
satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.**

**God brings forth food from the earth
and fruit of the vine to gladden the heart.**

**Blessed are you, Sovereign of the universe,
for gifts from your bounty which we receive.**

**May our hearts be thankful;
may we always have room for a guest.**

Make us grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others.

RETURN TO THE LIVING ROOM OR FRONT DOOR

If you are going to mark/chalk the front door move to the inside of the front door, if you are not going to mark/chalk the front door then move to the living room. If you are marking the front door, put above the top of the door frame or on the horizontal piece of the door frame 20 C M B 07 in chalk. This stands for the year of your house blessing and the initials of the three wise men according to legend: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. Some suggest the C M B may also stand for “Christus Mansionem Benedicat” meaning “May Christ bless this dwelling. If you want to do a house blessing every year you may want to do it around Epiphany (January 6th), and add each year alongside the door frame (08, 09, etc.) or on the right vertical piece of the door frame.

**Hear God’s word of benediction:
the fruit of righteousness will be peace
and the result of that righteousness,
tranquility and trust for ever,
my people will abide
in secure dwellings
and in quiet resting places.**

**And now the eternal Spirit,
enfold this home with love;
indwell this home with joy;
and build this home in peace
evermore and evermore. Amen.**

Note: this service of “The Blessing of a Home” is adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book)