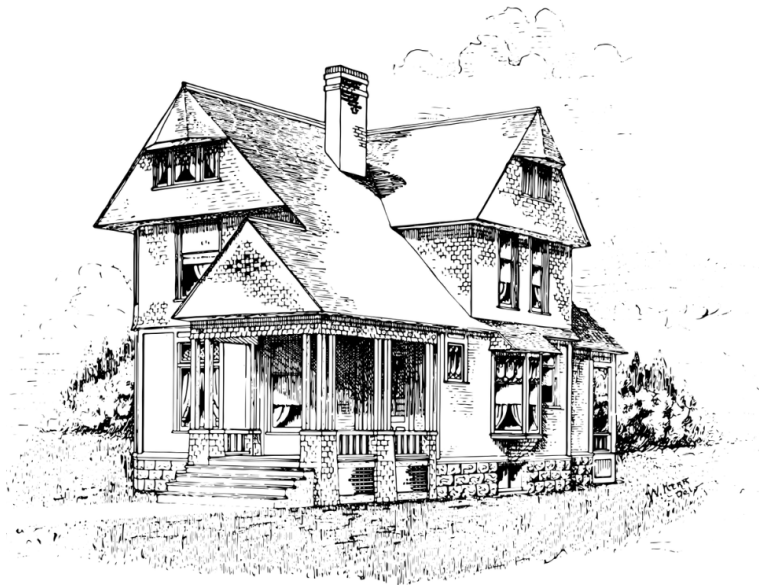


The Blessing of a Home
October 18th, 2024



The Home of
David, Emily, and Samuel Hoos
*1110 W. Montgomery Avenue
Spokane, Washington*

The Blessing of a Home

It is in the home that the first experience of love occurs; it is there that love is nurtured and grows to maturity. The Christian home is also the ground for much of people's spiritual growth.

The ministry of Jesus occurs in many different homes. Therefore to hallow the home as an environment for nurture and renewal, is a deeply felt need by many Christian households.

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

*Friends and Family respond with **Bold***

Approach

Gateway

The family, any friends and the priest gather outside the gateway.

*Priest: Dear friends in Christ
we enter this gateway in the name of God
creating, redeeming, sanctifying.*

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 Group moves onto the land on which the house 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.

+

○ 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 group moves around the outside of the house.

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

Encircle this dwelling place with your protection, ○ 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.

God make it a haven for all who live here.

'Behold I stand at the door and knock,' says the Lord
(*the priest may 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

The Hooses then say: Welcome to our home.

Blessed be God who dwells in love.

Blessed be God who gives peace and shelter.

Amen.

+

God of hearth and home, maker of love and laughter,

make this a place for reflection and restoration,

rest and renewal,

a place where the life of David, Emily, and Sam may find its strength.

The priest faces the Hooses and says

The Lord watch over your going out and your coming in

from this time forward for evermore.

Blessing in the Home

At The Living Room

The group enters and moves into the living room.

The Hooses Say:

Indwelling God, you are ever welcome in this house.

May we hear and share your Word.

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 in Trinity,

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.

If there are dependents, the priest may speak to the parents

David and Emily, will you be true to this family?

Will you support and care for each other

so that together you may care

for those whom God has given you?

David and Emily respond

Yes, we will.

May God give us joy in what we do

and patience when our work seems hard.

The priest addresses the family and friends.

Will you, their family and friends
give them your support?

The family and friends respond

Yes we will. May God be with you.

May you grow on and grow old in the love of God.

**May this place be for you a place where
relationships mature,
quarrels are made up,
failures forgiven and strength renewed.**

The priest says

Blessed be Christ the prince of peace

who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you.

Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.

Now let us share a sign of Christ's Peace

At A Bedroom

The group moves to each bedroom in turn.

The priest says

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

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

+

God of the night,
may this be a holy and blessed place
for David, Emily, Sam, 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 priest says

'I will sprinkle you with clean water, and you will be cleansed.'

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.**

At The Dining Area

The group moves to the dining room or area.

The priest says

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 wine 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.**

At The Kitchen

The group moves to the kitchen.

The priest says

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.

+

Creator, Sustainer and Life-giver
food shared between mother and child is your first gift,
is the first taste we know of love.

May the food we prepare,
the work of love done in this room,
be a sign that you dwell for ever with us
in the everyday things of your world.

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

At The Study

The priest says

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.**

Silence may be kept.

+

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.**

The Family Liturgy

The following may be said by a member/s of the household, with others light the candles. This liturgy maybe shared at the table before a meal, with three unlighted candles in the centre of the table.

The first candle is lit.

Loving God, in the family life you have given to us,
you have offered us yourself.

The second candle is lit.

Your Son lived with us
in all the uncertainty and darkness of life
so that we might walk in your light.

The third candle is lit.

And your Spirit is given to us, as a light to guide our steps
and as a brightness of heart to signal welcome
to those who have found other doors closed.
Three candles shed one light;
many foods eaten build one body.
Within each one, Abba, you have planted a seed,
the seed of Christ that grows no matter how deeply buried;
the seed that becomes a tree in whose branches
all your children may come and rest.

Teach us to share, Abba, as your Son shared.
Teach us to be both Mary and Martha.
Teach us to know that we are your home.

Amen.

Never forget to show kindness and to share what you have with others
for these are the gifts that please God.

A Householder's Prayer

David and Emily Pray:

Jesus of the wedding feast,
of breakfast by the lake,
bless this food we have prepared for you and all our friends.
Be with us now and at all our meals
give us appetite and joy in eating together.

Blessed be God for daily bread.

The liturgy concludes with this blessing.

A Blessing of Peace

The priest may lay hands on each member of the household, saying to each

David, Emily, and Sam, God bless you and keep you secure in this place.
May your family find
in you Christ's love and understanding.

The priest says to all present

Hear God's word of benediction:
the fruit of righteousness will be peace
and the result of righteousness,
tranquillity 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.