

Child Blessing – At Birth

My dear, precious child,
From God's creative hands into my own.
To hold, nurture, and let go.
To love.
And to be loved and gifted by you.
I am in constant awe.
The God who created you, created me.
Let us worship God together.

_____ [*Child's name*], as you discover the sensual beauty of this world,
May you, in time, discover God who lovingly made it.

As you soon take your first steps, stumbling then running,
May you always reach to walk and dance in the hand of God.

As you bring life to our home, developing speech and imagination,
May you continually draw from the Source of life.

As you begin to explore the many dimensions of self-expression,
May you, in time, thank God, the Creator you image,

The Creator who knows you by name.

_____ [*Child's name*], I pray that on this journey you reach maturity,
But not leave all childhood behind.

That you strive for wisdom, stability, rootedness,
But not leave spontaneity behind.

That you find joy and contentment,
But not leave compassion and justice behind.

That you have faith and assurance in God,
But not leave the paradox of mystery and doubt behind.

And, I pray, that you embrace the ground, source and mover of this universe,
The God of our story, our Creator,
Who knit you in your mother's womb,

Holds you in his hand,
Shelters you in her bosom,
Mounts you with wings as an eagle,
And who will never leave you behind.

I love you, _____ [*Child's name*]. God loves you too.

Arlyn Friesen Epp (Canada), 1997.

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