

# *The Blessing of a Home*

# Bless our home

**E komo mai!**



The Episcopal  
PARISH OF ST. CLEMENT  
Honolulu

1515 Wilder Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822



E komo mai (Welcome).  
*You are always welcome at  
The Episcopal Parish of St. Clement!*

Mahalo for being part of our `Ohana!

### *The Blessing of a Home*

The letters C, M, B come from the traditional names for the wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, whose arrival at Mary and Joseph's home is celebrated on the [Epiphany](#). (Tradition also says that three men visited the infant Jesus because the gospel writer Matthew, the only one who describes such a visit but does not number them, says they brought three gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh. Their names appear in a Greek manuscript from 500 AD translated into Latin, which many biblical scholars consider the source of the [names](#).) The letters are also an abbreviation for "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," which means "May Christ bless this dwelling." The first and last numbers refer to the current year, and the plus signs in between represent the cross.

"Chalking the door," as it is known, is seen as invoking Christ's blessing not only on the physical house but on the people who live there and those who visit. There is a long tradition of blessing homes, especially on the Epiphany, which falls on Jan. 6 each year, and the weeks that follow. Europeans have chalked their doors as part of Epiphany house blessings for centuries, especially Roman Catholics. The practice has become popular in the United States only relatively recently. Chalking can be done simply with a short prayer or with songs, prayers, processions, incense and holy water. Clergy or laypeople can do the chalking.

The Episcopal Church recognized the practice five years ago. Its Book of Occasional Services historically has contained a liturgy for blessing each room of a house, along with a shorter Epiphany house blessing. When the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music revised the book in 2018, the editors included chalking the door for the first time. They wanted to respect how the tradition had caught on among individual Episcopalians and their congregations, according to the Rev. Paul Fromberg, then a member of the commission. (The blessing is found on page 167 [here](#).)

# The Blessing of a Home

*The Presider(s) (usually the head or heads of a household), members of the household, and friends assemble in the home's living room. The gathered community takes part in the service. The Presider(s) greets the people.*

## The Collect of the Blessing of a Home

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, grant to this home the grace of your presence, that you may be known to be the inhabitant of this dwelling, and the defender of this household; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

### *Or at Epiphany*

O God of and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the nations and the Glory of your people, bless all who dwell in this house. May it be for them a place of peace and health, that they may rejoice in the gifts and graces you have bestowed upon them and dedicate their talents for the good of those for whom your Christ came and gave his life, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever..

*People* **Amen.**

### *Or at Easter*

We rejoice, ever living God, in these Easter days, because you have raised you Son, our savior Jesus Christ, from death to life. Bless thishome with your protection, that all who dwell here may find comfort andpeace in through our Risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever

*People* **Amen.**

## The Readings

Genesis 18:1-8

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

He said, “If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.”

“Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.”

So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.” Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

Matthew 6:25-33

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*A homily or brief address may follow.*

*Presider* Let the mighty power of the Holy God be present in this place to banish from it every unclean spirit, to cleanse it from every residue of evil, and to make it a secure habitation for those who dwell in it; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*If convenient, prayers for the several rooms of the house are offered at this time. The Presider, with members of the household (one of them carrying a lighted candle if desired), and others as convenient, move from room to room, concluding the procession in the living room.*

*The prayers in the separate rooms may be used before or after the service. The prayers in the rooms may be used in any convenient sequence. The appointed antiphons may be read or sung by all, or by the Presider, or by some other person.*

## **At the Entrance**

*Antiphon*

Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into the house, and eat with you, and you with me.

*Presider* The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

*People* **From this time forth for evermore.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Sovereign Lord, you are Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end: Send your servants out from this place on many errands, be their constant companion in the way, and welcome them upon their return, so that coming and going they may be sustained by your presence, O Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

## In an Oratory or Chapel, or at a Shrine

*Antiphon*

Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

*Presider* Lift up your hands in the holy place:

*People* **And bless the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God, from you comes every good prayer, and you pour out on those who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication: Deliver your servants when they draw near to you in this place from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections they may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

## In a Study or Library

*Antiphon*

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

*Presider* Seek the Lord your God, and you will find him:

*People* **Search for him with all your heart and with all your soul.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

O God of truth, the eternal ground of all that is, beyond space and time yet within them, transcending all things yet pervading them. Show yourself to us, for we go about in ignorance; reveal yourself to us, for it is you that we seek, O Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

## In a Bedroom

*Antiphon*

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

*Presider* I lie down and go to sleep:

*People* **I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

O God of life and love, the true rest of your people: Sanctify your *servants*, *their* hours of rest and refreshment, *their* sleeping and *their* waking, and grant that, strengthened by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, *they* may rise to serve you all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

## In a Child's Room

*Antiphon*

Jesus said, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to those like them belongs the kingdom of heaven.

*Presider* Praise the Lord, you children of the Lord:

*People* **Praise the Name of the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Heavenly Father, your Son our Savior took young children into his arms and blessed them: Embrace the child whose room this is with your unfailing love, protect him from all danger, and bring *him* in safety to each new day, until *he* greets with joy the great day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

## In a Guest Room

*Antiphon*

Do not neglect to show hospitality, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

*Presider*

Open your homes to each other without complaining:

*People*

**Use the gifts you have received from God for the good of others.**

*Presider*

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Loving God, you have taught us to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us: Bless those who from time to time share the hospitality of this home. May your loving care shield them, the love of your dear Son preserve them from all evil, and the guidance of your Holy Spirit keep them in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People*

**Amen.**

## In a Bathroom

*Antiphon*

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

*Presider*

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering:

*People*

**Having our bodies washed with pure water.**

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

O holy God, in the incarnation of your Son our Lord you made our flesh the instrument of your self-revelation: Give us a proper respect and reverence for our mortal bodies, keeping them clean and fair, whole and sound; that, glorifying you in them, we may confidently await our being clothed upon with spiritual bodies,



when that which is mortal is transformed by life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People*      **Amen.**

## In a Workroom or Workshop

*Antiphon*

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

*Presider*      Prosper, O Lord, the work of our hands:

*People*      **Prosper our handiwork.**

*Presider*      Let us pray.

*Silence is kept*

O God, your blessed Son worked with his hands in the carpenter shop in Nazareth: Be present, we pray, with *those* who *work* in this place, that, laboring as *workers* together with you, *they* may share the joy of your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People*      **Amen.**

## In the Kitchen

*Antiphon*

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

*Presider*      The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord:

*People*      **And you give them their food in due season.**

*Presider*      Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

O Lord our God, you supply every need of ours according to your great riches: Bless the hands that work in this place, and give us grateful hearts for daily bread; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People*      **Amen.**

## **In a Dining Room or Area**

*Antiphon*

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

*Presider*      He brings forth food from the earth,  
and wine to gladden our hearts:

*People*      Oil to make a cheerful countenance,  
and bread to strengthen the heart.

*Presider*      Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Blessed are you, O Lord, King of the universe, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives: Make us grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People*      **Amen.**

## In a Terrace or Garden

### *Antiphon*

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

*Presider* My boundaries enclose a pleasant land:

*People* **Indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

### *Silence is kept.*

Jesus, our good Companion, on many occasions you withdrew with your friends for quiet and refreshment: Be present with your *servants* in this place, to which *they* come for fellowship and recreation; and make of it, we pray, a place of serenity and peace; in your Name we ask it.

*People* **Amen.**

*Or*

Holy One, bless and protect this garden and all who keep it. Strengthen and uphold them in their labor, that these plants may bear good fruit and our care for the earth may witness to your love and justice, in the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity.

*People* **Amen.**

*Or*

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## In the Living Room or Family Room

*Antiphon*

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when God's people live together in unity!

*Presider* Above everything, love one another earnestly:

*People* **For love covers many sins.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept*

Give your blessing, Lord, to all who share this room, that they may be knit together in fellowship here on earth, and joined with the communion of your saints in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*In those rooms and other places for which no provision has been made in this service, any suitable antiphon, versicle, and prayer may be used.*

## The Final Blessing of the Home

*When the procession has returned to the living room, or immediately after the homily (and invocation), the Presider completes the blessing of the home as follows:*

*Antiphon*

The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness tranquility and trust for ever. My people will abide in secure dwellings and in quiet resting places.

*Presider* Unless the Lord builds the house:

*People* **Their labor is in vain who builds it.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love [to each other and] to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever.

*People*      **Amen.**

*Presider*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant*      And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray in the language of our hearts.

*All*      **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
          hallowed be thy Name,  
          thy kingdom come,  
          thy will be done,  
          on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
          as we forgive those  
          who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
          but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
          and the power, and the glory,  
          for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Dismissal

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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# Prayer Requests



As a faith community, we're here to lift each other in prayer. Whatever you're facing - whether it's a cause for joy, a challenge weighing you down, traveling, or a particular intention you're holding close to your heart - as your 'Ohana in Christ, we want to join you in prayer.

Please email your prayer requests to

**PRAYERLIST@STCLEM.ORG**



The Episcopal  
PARISH OF ST. CLEMENT  
Honolulu E KOMO MAI



The Episcopal  
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## Join us for worship

Sunday at 9:30 AM - The Holy Eucharist with music

Wednesday at 9 AM - The Holy Eucharist

Saturday at 5 PM - Contemporary Worship Service

More information at [www.stclem.org](http://www.stclem.org)



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