

Scott's godparent naming ceremony
June 1st, 2023
12:00 noon
North Conway, NH

Welcome:

Hello everyone. On behalf of Abby and Scott, I would like to welcome you all here and thank you for joining us on this very special occasion.

We are gathered here today to celebrate the birth and formal naming of Scott and to welcome him into the world, as well as formally recognize Robert and Betsey Jones as Scott's godparents.

This ceremony will have special significance for all of you but especially for Robert and Betsey, as they make their promises to support and guide Scott throughout his life.

The ceremonial naming of a child has a long tradition, it establishes their identity, and is celebrated in different cultures and religions throughout the world.

Throughout history, non-religious people have gathered together to mark life's key milestones, and the arrival of a child into a family and the wider community is always a cause for a celebration. A humanist or non-religious naming ceremony focuses on the uniqueness and individuality of the child, their potential and the support

of family and friends to help them find happiness and fulfillment.

For you all as members and friends of this family, this ceremony is an opportunity to think about Scott's future and to consider ways in which your relationship with him can provide the love, support, and respect that will strengthen his character.

Each child has a need to be part of a group of loving and supportive people to nurture their growth and development. This provides them with emotional and practical guidance bound together with love, attachment, and safety. Love is the essence of human experience and emotion. It is the root of all and everything we, as humans, do. Love enriches our experience and fills our lives with meaning. It gives us a firm base from which to grow, to learn, and to change.

Whether you are here today as grandparent, uncle, aunt, godparent or friend, each of you here today make up part of that special group with whom Scott will celebrate life's special moments, and also to whom he may turn to in times of need.

Naming:

The name we are given by our parents establishes us as an individual within the family and provides the foundation of our identity in the wider community. No wonder then that such care is taken in the choice of a name.

Abby, will you please confirm the name you have given to your son:

Abby states full name

Family, friends and loved ones, I give to you Scott Allan McAllister

Scott, you are welcomed today by the family and friends gathered here in your honour and as a member of the wider community in which you will take your place. May you be proud of the name you have just ceremoniously received, as your family and friends are sure to be proud of you in the years to come.

Intentions:

Abby, do you promise Scott a childhood of love, happiness, patience and understanding; sheltering him, and protecting him from harm for as long as he needs you?

Do you promise to love Scott without condition, to support him without judgement, respecting him as an individual, so that he may grow into an honest, responsible, caring and confident adult?

Do you promise to guide and stimulate his learning and development, and to give support and encouragement so that Scott may fulfil his potential in life?

Abby: I do

“Godparents” intentions:

In our complex world, even the most loving and capable parent will benefit from help in raising their children. It is therefore very reassuring to know that family and friends will also be around to offer their assistance.

In addition to the standard role her parents will play as devoted grandparents, Abby has also chosen Robert and Betsey to play a special role in the life of her child. As such, they will have an enduring and supportive roll in Scott’s life as they each play a role in Abby’s life, acting as a second set of parents for her.

Robert and Betsey, do you promise to be there for Scott so that he can turn to you for reassurance, help and support?

Will you be a role model for him, and will you help him learn about the values that are important to you? Will you help him make good choices?

Do you acknowledge Scott is free to make up his own mind and make his own choices as he grows older?

Do you promise to offer Scott your friendship, to encourage his endeavours and celebrate his progress and achievements?

Do you promise to carefully watch over Scott, and to always be ready to give comfort and guidance whatever life may bring?

Robert and Betsey: We do

Reading:

I Wish for You One Thing, and that is Love – William Byrd

I wish for you one thing, and that is love

Love for life, and pure, unfettered joy

At being here on this vivid earth.

May pleasure come from giving pleasure,

And love that streams out of your burning heart

Light the darkened world and make it bloom.

I wish you to be loved both well and long

By all those whom you love; that these be many,

Among whom, not least, might be yourself.

May you love the beautiful and good,

And always act with honesty and justice,

Being what you would that others be.

But most of all, I wish for you a love

Into which your love might plunge and drown,

An ocean in which you might live and breathe.

Certificate:

I would now like to invite godparents Robert and Betsey to sign the commemorative certificate.

Robert and Betsey sign

Those of you here today are all especially important to Scott. You will be part of his world, and he will look amongst you for leadership and companionship, for support and to be cherished. By watching you he will learn how life works.

I am sure that the welcome and support that you have pledged will be lasting and that you will love and care for Scott throughout his life; and that he in turn will bring ever-increasing joy and gladness to your lives.

Tree planting:

To celebrate Scott's birth, Abby and Scott will plant a sapling at their home. Trees represent life itself and are the link between Mother Earth and heaven. Their wood is used for building, their fruit for food. They symbolize growth, strength, and stability. This tree that stands before us today and which we will be planted at Abby and Scott's home symbolizes the growth of a new branch in this family tree. This tree will grow along with Scott marking the milestones in his life.

A child is like a tree that is grown from a seed. Both require constant nurturing to grow strong and healthy. The more "rooted" a child is in his source of nourishment, the stronger he will grow and the happier he will be. Most important of all is to remember that being a parent- like being a gardener is a full-time job. Abby, it is your job to tend to this precious seedling that has been placed in your care.

May this sapling be a symbol of the love of mother to son, guiding Scott's every day of his life. Now I would like to invite Abby and Scott to plant this tree.

(Abby plants the tree in a container)

Blessing:

Dear Mother Earth, we stand before you in awe as we witness the miracle of your creation – this young tree.

Unique and original, just like Scott.

And unlike anything that ever was before or will be.

Each began with a single seed,

Concealing a complex potential that miraculously unfolds with each passing day.

We hope that the roots of this tree will gain hold and spread deep,

drawing nourishment from the fertile earth.

We pray that the trunk of this tree

will grow healthy and strong,

withstanding the forces of nature

and to be able to support its canopy of branches and leaves.

So may this child possess a healthy body

and a strong moral spirit,

holding steadfast to his integrity

We wish that through each passage and season you

guide Abby to nourish and nurture Scott and their tree, so that they may both blossom, mature , and prosper, fulfilling to the greatest extent possible the potential for which they are on earth.

And so it is.

Closing words:

Abby, I say on behalf of all of us, go in peace and build a strong and beautiful family life. Your wishes are rooted in truth, for we have longed with you and joined our hearts with yours. Your wishes are also our wishes, that you have a home that is full of love and righteousness for you and your child. May he grow up to reflect the best in you, and extend unto the world he touches, the love he receives from his mother and family. Do not fear for Mother Earth will guide you always. Do not despair, for she is ever there. The spirit of Mother Earth is with you always, to guide you and bless your child.



Scott, stand strong and proud.
Sink your roots deep into the earth.
Stand tall during the harsh winds and rains and storms
and come through unscathed.
Let your bond with mom grow just as the tree grows
deeper, wider, stronger with each passing year.
Be content with your natural beauty.
Go out on a limb. Drink plenty of water.
Remember your roots. And enjoy the view!

Reading (to be read by Abby):

Here we are – Oliver Jeffers

Well, hello.

Welcome to this planet. We call it Earth.

It is the big globe, floating in space on which we live.

We're glad you found us, as space is very big.

There is much to see and do on Earth, so let's get started with a quick tour.

The planet is basically made up of two parts.

Firstly, let's talk about the land.

It's what we're standing on right now.

We know lot's about the land.

Then there is the sea, which is full of wonderful things.

We know a lot about the sea, but we'll talk more about that once you've learned to swim.

There is also the sky.

Though that can get pretty complicated...

OK, moving on.

On our planet, there are people.

One people is a person.

You are a person.

You have a body.

Look after it, as most bits don't grow back.

The most important things for people to remember are to eat, drink and stay warm.

People come in many shapes, sizes and colors.

We may all look different, act different and sound different...

but don't be fooled, we are all people.
There are animals too.
They come in even more shapes, sizes and colors.
They can't speak, though that's no reason not to be nice to them.

You may not be able to speak yet either, even though your head is filled with questions.
Be patient, you'll learn how to use words soon enough.
Generally how it works is that when the sun is out, it is daytime and we do stuff.

The rest of the time is night, when it is dark, save for the moon and we sleep. (Please?).
Things can sometimes move slowly here on Earth.
More often though, they move quickly, so use your time well.

It will be gone before you know it.
Though we have come a long way we haven't quite worked everything out, so there is plenty left for you do.
You will figure lots of things out for yourself, just remember to leave notes for everyone else.
It looks big, Earth, but there are lots of us on here, so be kind.

There is enough for everyone.
Well, that is planet Earth.
Make sure you look after it, as it's all we've got.
Now, if you need to know anything else ... just ask.
I won't be far away.
And when I'm not around ... you can always ask

someone else.
You're never alone on Earth.

Closing:

I know that it has meant a great deal to Abby that you have all been here to share this happy occasion with them today. Thank you all being a part of this celebration. Thank you all for being with us today to bless and welcome Scott. Let the memory of this day fill us with love and family.

And so with abiding confidence and affection, we send you forth on your journey of life. May you be filled with thanks and wonder, humour and fun, hope and perseverance so that you both may grow in wisdom and grace. Go in peace.