The Covenant of Circumcision

Welcome
As the boy is brought into the room, all rise and say:

**Welcoming the Baby (all present)**

בָּרוּךְ חַבָּה בֵּשָׁם ה'  

*Barukh Habah B’shem Adonay*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Adonai

**Rabbi/Hazzan**

*Brit milah*, the covenant of circumcision, is a sign of the covenant between God and the Jewish people that was first established with our ancestor, Abraham, and then renewed at *Sinai* when the Jewish people received the Torah.

**Parents**

Our God and God of our Ancestors, we are grateful for the joy and blessing which our new son brings to us. As parents we accept the awesome responsibility of raising our son to adulthood, of guiding his life, of determining in large measure the values by which he shall live and the ideals toward which he shall strive. We pray for the wisdom to help him fulfill his potential, to be strong when he needs us to be strong, to be gentle when he needs us to be gentle, and to be available in mind and body whenever he needs us.

**The Chair of Elijah**

**Rabbi/Hazzan/Mohel**

Elijah is an honored guest present at every circumcision. We invoke his memory because Elijah has a reputation for being zealous for God’s covenant. He is also known as the one who establishes peace between parents and their children.
Living Judaism (responsively)

Judaism begins at home. It begins in homes where Judaism lives in the atmosphere and is integrated into the normal pattern of daily life.

It begins in homes where words of the Jewish tradition are part of the everyday vocabulary, where Jewish books are displayed and read, where Jewish songs are enjoyed.

It begins in homes where the children see and participate in symbols and rituals that link them to a people with a colorful and rich culture.

It begins in homes where Jewish ritual objects are visible: Shabbat candlesticks, and Hanukiyot, mezuzot and havdallah sets.
It begins in homes where into the deepest layers of a child’s developing personality are woven strands of love for the Jewish tradition and devotion to the Jewish people.

Judaism begins in the home. A truly Jewish home, therefore, is not only a place where Jews live, but a place where Judaism is lived.

The founders of our people wisely assigned to parents the task of transmitting the ideals of Torah, ḥuppa and ma’asim tovim—study, family and the performance of good deeds—for it is in the home that the foundations of the future are set.

Children are not only banim, the ñsons of the past; they are also bonim, the ñbuilders of tomorrow.

Parents

We are ready to perform the positive commandment enjoined by the Creator, blessed be God, to circumcise our son, as it is written in the Torah: ñEvery male among you, throughout your generations, shall be circumcised when he is eight days old (Genesis 17:12). According to custom, responsibility for bringing our son into the covenant falls upon us. We hereby authorize you to perform the brit milah on our behalf.
Mohel
I willingly perform this commandment of *brit milah*, sanctioned by the generations, of bringing this child into the covenant.

Mohel (*to Parents*)
Do you authorize me to perform this *Brit Milah* on your behalf, or do you wish to perform it yourself?

Parents: We authorize you to perform this *Brit Milah* on our behalf.

*Before the Circumcision:*

ברוך אתה מלך העולם המלך קדושי המלך הכהן הקדוש במשואותי, בהם על המילה

Praised are You, *Adonai*, Ruler of the universe who has made us holy with Your commandments and commanded us concerning circumcision.
Parents

ברוך אתה ג‑מ היי אלוהים מלך העולמים, אשר קדשך במצווה, אמרך
ל денегך הבורחות של אברכים אבויה.

Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu malekh ha-olam, asher kid’shanu b’mitzvotav v’tzivahnu l’hakhniso bevrito shel Avraham avinu.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe who has made us holy with Your commandments and commanded us to bring our son into the covenant of our father, Abraham.

All Present Respond:

אמר, חשם שבכנסת לברית, פג בן及び הליהקה הלימעושה תוביס.

Amen, K’shaym shenikhnas labrit, kayn yikanes l’Torah, ul’huppah ul’ma’asim tovim.

Just as he has entered the covenant, so may he enter the worlds of Torah, family and good deeds.

Giving a Name

ברוך אתה ג‑מ היי אלוהים מלך העולמים, בורא פרי הגפן.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

ברוך אתה ג‑מ היי אלוהים מלך העולמים, אשר קדשך במצווה, אמרך
בשאזרו שם, ויאצאתי затוס באחת בריית קדש. על פז ב创新型 יאת, על
ה, חלקוה, צורני, זוה להנלאל יגידית ישראלי מושמת,جمال בריית
אלר צם בברית. ברוך אתה ג‑מ, מ–and forever.

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Our God and God of our Ancestors, sustain this child, and let him
be known in the House of Israel as _______________, and in all
secular affairs as ______________. As he has been brought into
the covenant of our people, so may the son of ________________ and
_______________ fulfill the ideals of Torah and be a source of pride
to his parents and family, to the Jewish people and to everyone he
meets on his path through life. May _________________ be a strong
link in the chain of Jewish tradition fulfilling the dreams of our
ancestors and sowing hope for the generations yet to be. Grant him
a long life filled with health and happiness. Amen.

Parents explain the origin of the name.
Prayer of Healing for baby (Rabbi/Hazzan/Mohel)

May God who blessed our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and our mothers, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, bless this child that healing and strength may come to him speedily. May his father and mother find joy and fulfillment in raising him. May his life be dedicated in faithfulness to You, and may he bring blessing to his parents, to his people and to all humanity.

Grandparents’ Prayer

Our God and God of All Generations, we are grateful for the new beginnings, for the bond of new life that links one generation to another. Thankful for the blessings of family, for the love and care that bring meaning and happiness to our lives, we rejoice in the birth of our grandson. May they grow together as a family in health and in strength, in harmony, wisdom and love, their home filled with Torah and acts of kindness. And may we be able to share in the joy of seeing this child into adulthood. May he be a blessing to his family, his people and all humanity. Amen.

Blessing the Child (Parents/Family/Rabbi/Hazzan)

May God make you like Ephrayim and Menashe.

May the Lord bless you and protect you.
Ya’eir Adonai panav eilekha vihuneka.
May the Lord show you kindness and be gracious to you.

Yisa Adonai panav eilekha v’yaseim l’kha shalom.
May the Lord bestow favor upon you and grant you peace.

Sheheḥeyanu

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha’olam,
Sheheḥeyanu, v’kiyimanu v’higi’anu laz’mah hazeh.
Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who has sustained us and enabled us to reach this day.

Mazel Tov!

Siman tov u’mazel tov, mazel tov v’siman tov, yehei lanu ul’khol Yisrael.
Congratulations to you, us, and all Israel!