

March 23, 2023

Dearest Church Family,

After a heart-wrenching adoption journey this past decade, an angel has arrived in our lives. Our Sophia Grace is a gift from God, a gift of unexpected pure grace. She was born on February 5 at 11:38pm in New York City. Sophia weighed 7lbs. 7.8oz and was 19 inches long. When we met our daughter on March 1—a day we will never forget—she was already 9lbs. Sophia is incredibly resilient, full of spirit and spunk, and an absolute wonder to behold. She is the greatest gift we only dared to imagine and pray was possible. And here she is.



We are back home from New York. For the next several months, all our attention is focused on bonding, cocooning, and attaching with this most precious baby girl. In her young life, she has already experienced trauma and displacement. We pray over her constantly—that she may know, in her bones, that she is now home. We invite your prayers for her, too. Attachment with a newborn is always critically important, and certainly so with an adopted child who did not benefit from your immediate touch at the moment of birth.

I cannot thank you enough, my beloved congregation, for your understanding, support, care, flexibility, and love. We have already been so nourished by the delicious and healthy meals you have made for us as well as the cards, well wishes, diapers, and generous love. Our faith community means everything to us. We are thrilled to have such a church family to help us welcome our Sophia Grace into the world. Our thanks does not seem quite enough, but it's what these two sleep deprived parents can offer now. We are simply overwhelmed, overjoyed, and awe-struck. God is so good! MIRACLES happen! Believe!

May you feel God's kiss on your forehead this Lent as you embrace the love and new life Christ offers.

With our deepest gratitude and love,

*Amy, Frédéric, and Sophia Grace*