

*A Service of Dedication
for
Children and Parents*

[Name of Child]

[Names of Parents]

Confession of Faith and Promise of Parents

Do you believe in one God, the Almighty, and in Jesus Christ, our Savior, and in God's Holy Spirit?

We believe.

Will you, by God's help, provide a Christian home for this child and bring [first name of child] up in the worship and teachings of the church, that [he/she] may come to know Christ as [his/her] Savior?

We will, God being our helper.

Will you commit yourself to being a loving parent, protecting, guiding, and caring for [first name of child] throughout the days of [his/her] life?

We will, God being our helper.

Congregational Commitment to Parents

In the presence of God, the Author and Giver of life, we the Body of Christ in this place pray for you parents, in the great and joyful responsibility God has entrusted to you.

As individuals, we pray that as you grow in Christ you may bear the fruit of wisdom and goodness day by day.

As a church, we promise to fulfill our responsibility to you and your child in teaching, serving, and loving [him/her], that from the earliest days of memory, [he/she] may see the face of Jesus mirrored in us.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who became a child that we might become the children of God. Amen.

Blessing of Child

Having heard your confession and promise, I commend [first name of child] to God's loving care and protection all the years of [his/her] life. May the blessings of the Lord be upon [him/her], you as parents, and upon your home and family.

Prayer of Blessing

Presentations

Song of Dedication

Good Shepherd, Take This Little Child
(to the tune, *Amazing Grace*)

Good Shepherd, now we place this child into your gentle trust;
This precious gift we give to you is one you've given us.

Good Shepherd, we commit ourselves in everything we do
To be your family here on earth and love this child for you.

WORDS: Clair Cloninger, 1986
MUSIC: Ken Barker, 1986

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Dedication of Parents and Little Children At Noank Baptist Church

Very simply, the act of dedication in public worship results from three basic reasons. First of all, the parents are expressing their gratitude to God for one of the most beautiful and miraculous gifts they can ever appreciate – a child of their own.

Second, they are following the biblical pattern because Jesus' parents brought him to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him before the Lord in similar fashion to this ceremony of dedication (Luke 2:21-40).

Third, this is an opportunity for parents and the congregation to dedicate themselves to the upbringing and spiritual nurturing of children, and particularly for parents to make some promises to God as to the kind of home they want to have.

A ceremony of dedication is conducted mainly because Baptists do not christen infants. Baptism follows a personal decision and commitment to Christ, usually occurring as a youth or adult. The corresponding rite in other denominations is called Confirmation. In effect, Baptists and other traditions do agree and recognize that a community of faith is important for the spiritual development of an individual, but that the personal spiritual journey of faith must be recognized and encouraged when the individual is old enough to make that decision. For Baptists, the ordinance of baptism takes place when the individual is capable of making a decision for Christ.

Dedication, then, serves as a promise by parents to do their best to rear their child in the Lord, with the support of their family and church.

Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.

Mark 10:13-16 TEV

A Service of Dedication for Children and Parents

[Full Name of Child]

[Names of Parents]



Noank Baptist Church, Noank, Connecticut

[Date]