

PARENT-CHILD DEDICATION

Congratulations

Congratulations on your new arrival. We are celebrating with you. What a wonderful gift from God!

What Is Parent-Child Dedication?

The basic principle of child dedication is taught and illustrated in the Bible. In Exodus 13:2, parents were asked to dedicate firstborn sons to God (see also 1 Samuel 1:11).

Later, Mary and Joseph offered the baby Jesus to God (Luke 2:22). And the members of the first-century church were instructed to raise their children in the Lord: "Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4, CSB).

Unlike infant baptism, which some traditions view as imparting grace or marking entry into the church, baby dedication does not confer salvation or church membership. Instead, it is an act of thanksgiving, commitment, and prayer, symbolizing the parents' pledge to guide their child spiritually and the church family's support in this endeavor.

We have combined the ideas of dedication to God and raising children for his purposes into a short, simple ceremony called Parent/Child Dedication. It provides an opportunity for parents to publicly:

- Acknowledge God's gift and ownership of our children.
- Promise to raise our children in the knowledge and love of God.
- Commit to raising our children to trust in and follow Jesus as God and Savior.
- Ask for the congregation's support and prayers.

Parent/child dedication looks forward to the day when our children will choose to follow Jesus, trusting in his person and work to make them right with God forever.

The Dedicatory Promises

During the Dedication ceremony, we ask parents to make the following promises:

- Dedicate ourselves and our child to God.
- Teach our child the Christian faith at home.
- Encourage our child to trust Jesus Christ as Savior.
- Model and encourage active participation in the life of the church.

Application For Parent/Child Dedication

Please complete and return to Peter Foxwell

Parent(s)' names: _____

Child's name(s): _____ **DOB:** _____

Address: _____ **Town:** _____

Parent(s)' cell: _____

Email: _____

Tell us about yourselves:

How long have you participated in the Cornerstone?

Is there any significance to your child's name? Please explain.

Why do you want to participate in the parent/child dedication?

We have read and understood the Parent/Child Dedication fact sheet and we are willing to make the dedicatory promises:

Signed _____

Date _____