

PRESENTATION OF INFANTS

Introduction

We pause in this service of worship in order that a child born to _____ and _____ may be presented before the Lord and this congregation. We rejoice with these parents in welcoming this precious life to their home. We believe our children are gifts from our heavenly Father, who breathes into all the breath of life so that each person is an immortal soul.

You, as parents, have brought your child before the household of the Lord to acknowledge that this child is given as a gift and sacred trust from God, and to publicly declare your resolve to train your child in the Christian faith.

Scripture

Since the scriptures teach the importance of obedience and guidance within the Christian family, we are certain of God's approval upon this art of presentation. In Psalm 127 it says, *"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He gives to His beloved sleep. Lo, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! We shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate."*

Declaration of Intent

As parents, you have been entrusted with a new life given by God. Therefore it is your duty to lead (this/these) child/ren to know and love God. Being obedient to God's will, you are to help in the unfolding of your child's spiritual life. From your example the child must learn to read and love the Bible. From your example the child must learn the way of fellowship with Christ.

Above all, you are to make it your constant prayer and desire that when your child comes to the age of proper understanding (he/she/they) will choose of (his/her/their) own free will to accept and confess Christ as Savior, and to obey Him as Lord, and to give (himself/herself/themselves) in loyal and loving service to the Church, which is the Body of Christ.

Questions

1. Do you _____ and _____ accept the awesome and serious responsibility with which God has entrusted you in the life of your child?

If so, answer: WE DO

2. Do you promise to pray for and with _____ for (his/her/their) growth in the knowledge of God and development of (his/her/their) spiritual life?

If so, answer: WE DO

3. Do you promise to train your child in body, mind and soul for service to and fellowship with God and His Church?

If so, answer: WE DO

4. Do you promise to do all you can to lead _____ at an early age to confess (his/her/their) personal faith in Christ Jesus?

If so, answer: WE DO

Congregational Declaration

To you, the members of this congregation, we present (this/these) child/ren and parents. You too shall have a part in the development of their growth as a family. You must promise to do all in your power to assist these parents in showing their child true godliness by living lives which radiate the Spirit of Christ.

Do you promise to provide opportunities and facilities for training and growth in the Christian life? And do you promise to assist the parents in every way to bring their child/ren to the place where (he/she/they) will choose Christ as (his/her/their) personal Savior?

If so, answer: WE WILL

Prayer and Benediction

We praise You for the love of these parents by whom You have created a new life, and that under the ministry of Your Spirit, they have been led to present their child/ren to You in this worship hour.

We pray that Your divine blessing may rest upon these parents and child/ren. Give wisdom and power, love and compassion, tenderness and firmness to these parents as they strive to fulfill the vows made this day before You and this congregation. Endure them with heavenly power as they seek to lead their child/ren to faith in Christ. Grant them the joy of seeing their child/ren make a commitment to Christ at an early age. Amen.