



Dear Parent,

We celebrate with you this new life that God has given your family! God has entrusted you with the privilege and great responsibility of joining him in raising your child to know and respond to his unending love.

Scripture reveals a tradition in God's family of mothers and fathers bringing their child before God and their faith community to commit him or her to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:24-28, Luke 2:22-23).

We continue that tradition at Mill City through child dedication. Child dedication is an opportunity for you to publicly declare your commitment to do all that you can to point your child towards the loving heart of God. As your child grows, he will have personal opportunities to say "yes" to God's invitation of grace and mission. Child dedication is not making that decision for your child, but promising to cultivate an environment in which he will grow to know how deeply God loves him and God's gift of Christ's work on the cross.

As a parent, you are the primary nurturer of your child's faith. It is in the ordinary comings and goings of life that the most profound opportunities for faith formation occur. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 serves as our orienting passage for those opportunities:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates."

This passage is speaking to parents located within the context of the greater faith community. This dedication is made publicly with our church family, because you cannot do this work alone! Our church is designed to be a family of families on mission, and your dedication is also an opportunity for your church family to commit to supporting you, praying for you, and joining with you in cultivating an environment where your child can know and respond to God's unending love.

We look forward to celebrating this special day with you!

Anne and the Family Life Team