

# A Service for Baby Dedication

Robert Wagoner

*Baptists believe that christening or baptism of an infant is wrong due to the fact that baptism took place in the New Testament only for those who had consciously chosen to follow Christ and had been converted. There is a need today, however, for a time of dedication of newborn babies and their parents to the Lord. This dedication would provide a constant reminder to the congregation of our commitment to children. It would also be a reminder to all parents of their biblical responsibility to raise their children in the admonition of the Lord. The timing of this rite could occur either at the birth of the child or on a specific calendar date such as given for sanctity of life Sunday. Here is a suggested order of worship for this sacred action.*

## **Service for Celebration and Dedication of Life**

### **Worship in Praise**

**Organ Prelude** “How Firm a Foundation”  
(arr. Hermon Voss)

**Call to Worship** “Savior, Teach Me Day by Day” (Strattner)  
*Presented by the Children’s Choir*

**Hymn of Praise #555** “I’m a Child of the King” (Sumner)

### **Worship in the Dedication of Life**

**Responsive Reading #670** (based on Ps. 139)

**Hymn of Dedication #592** “Jesus Loves the Little Children” (Root)  
*\*(Parents with babies enter on last stanza of hymn.)*

**Pastoral introduction of Parents and Babies**  
*\*(A white New Testament with child’s name engraved on it is given to each family.)*

**Vows of Parental Commitment**  
*\*(The vows are read aloud by leader, parents, and congregation.)*

### **Worship in Prayer**

**Pasoral Prayer of Dedication**  
*\*(This prayer would dedicate the infants to the Lord, ask for wisdom and guidance for parents, and commit to God as a church to do everything possible to lead these children to Him.)*

## **Worship in Commitment**

**Hymn of Commitment #492** “Purer in Heart,  
O God” (Fillmore)

**Choral Worship** “You Are There” (Burgess)  
*(Based on Ps. 139. Presented by the Sanctuary  
Choir)*

**Scripture Text** Psalm 127:3-5

### **Message**

**Hymn of Invitation #488** “I’m Just a Child”  
(Kirkland)

## **Worship in Giving**

**Offertory** “He Leadeth Me” (Bradbury, arr.  
by Johnson)  
*(Piano and organ duet)*

### **Benediction Prayer**

**Postlude** “This Is My Father’s World”  
(Sheppard)

*All hymns and responsive reading are from the  
Baptist Hymnal, 1991.*

*\*All asterisked notes are for instruction only and  
would not be included in the congregation’s order  
of worship.*

## **A Dedication of Parents and Children to the Lord**

**Leader:** God has entrusted you with a  
magnificent responsibility.

**Parents:** We lovingly accept this  
responsibility.

**Congregation:** We will help you.

**Leader:** God has given you the gift of life.

**Parents:** We will protect and nurture this gift.

**Congregation:** We will help you.

**Leader:** God expects you to teach a child  
through the example of a godly life.

**Parents:** We will strive to live lives consistent  
with God’s Word before our child.

**Congregation:** We will provide godly  
examples before the child as well.

**Leader:** A child is like a clean slate: it  
knows no right or wrong.

**Parents:** We dedicate ourselves to the  
teaching of the ways of Christ  
to our child.

**Congregation:** We will assist you.

**All:** “Praise God from whom all blessings  
flow.” **LW**

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