

Responsive Reading

**Pastor:** “People were bringing little children to Jesus...but the disciples rebuked them.”

**Congregation:** “When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’”

**Pastor:** Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

**Congregation:** “And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”

**Pastor:** “He called a little child and had him stand among them.” He said, “Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.”

**Congregation:** Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

**Pastor:** Parents and congregation, I charge you to see these little ones with the loving eyes of Jesus. Do you promise to nurture them, love them, and set their feet on a path of following Jesus Christ as the Lord of their lives?

**Congregation:** In the strength of Christ, we will.

Presentation of Children by Parents

Kolton Jack Canup

Parents: Hannah Napier & Hunter Canup  
Grandparents: Jeremy Napier, Tabitha Napier, Jennifer Rodriguez,  
Matias Rodriguez, Tracy Thomas, Scott Canup, Kelly Canup  
Great Grandparents: Beverly Napier, Jack Napier, JD Thomas

Kylie & Ellys Cuthbertson

Parents: Mason & Katie Cuthbertson  
Grandparents: Holly Morris, Misty Cuthbertson, Kevin Morris  
Great Grandparents: Don & Vickie Cuthbertson,  
Ravonne Pender, Stephen & Brenda Walker

John Dermid

Parents: Carter & Laura Dermid  
Grandparents: Eddie & Cindy Dermid, John & Carol Hartman

Presentation of Children by Parents, continued

Sophia, Kennedy & Nikolas Hutson

Parents: Kyle & Shelby Hutson  
Grandparents: Melissa & Larry Smith, Tammy Hutson,  
Fletcher & Rhonda Hutson, Darrin Beltran  
Great Grandparents: Joseph & Carol Cholette,  
Adrian & Ann Beltran, Harriet Smith

Hunter & Tucker Jackson

Parents: David & Kristen Jackson  
Grandparents: Joel & Sheila Hartis, Donna & Joel Self  
Great Grandparents: Ellis & Shirley Johnson,  
Herbert & Carolyn Hartis, Everette & Silvia Jackson,  
Brenda Napper & John Wallace

Miguel Leyva

Parents: Grace Jenkins & Jose Leyva  
Grandparents: Jane Morin, Sarah & Juan Leyva

Grayer & Dallas Love

Parents: Brandon & Christa Love  
Grandparents: Barbara Simpson, Steve Simpson,  
Wallace & Betty Love  
Great Grandparents: Bryant & Maude Griffin, W. S. & Margaret  
Simpson, Lester & Merthel Greene, Theron & Ora Love

Lane Simpson

Parents: Megean & David Simpson  
Grandparents: Carl & Kim Collins, Barbara Simpson, Steve Simpson  
Great Grandparents: Roscoe & Annabelle Collins, James & Rose  
Gregory, Bryant & Maude Griffin, W. S. & Margaret Simpson

The Challenge

We as a church family rejoice today with these parents because these little ones have come into their hearts and homes. There are no gifts more precious, more exciting, nor more enriching to the home than the coming of a little child. But, with this experience there comes also to these parents

The Challenge, continued

great responsibility: for into their care has been entrusted an immortal soul, whose destiny is to a large extent determined by the character and influence of the home.

Jesus considered children very precious, and he said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Mark 10:14) In the presence of the Holy Spirit and remembering how the Lord Jesus Christ took little children and blessed them, we acknowledge these parents who present their children before God and this church.

The Covenant

**Pastor:** Parents, do you come today recognizing your children as gifts from God, and with thankful hearts do you dedicate your children to the Lord?

**Parents:** We do.

**Pastor:** Do you pledge as parents to bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

**Parents:** We do.

**Pastor:** Believing that it is in the home that the child should come to love the Bible, worship, and discover the Lordship of Christ, do you dedicate yourselves to Christian parenthood?

**Parents:** We do.

**Pastor:** Do you recognize that not one of us is sufficient for the full responsibilities of parenthood without the aid of God’s grace in partnership with the church?

**Parents:** We do.

**Pastor:** Do you as members of Austin Grove Baptist Church realize these are your children also? Are you willing to provide the kind of church which will contribute to their spiritual maturity? Are you willing to pray, to witness, to encourage, and to teach these children and their parents how to continue to grow in the Lord?

**Congregation:** We do.

## Prayer of Dedication

**Pastor:** Lord, these tiny hands are so trusting. They are so innocent. And yet they will grow in a world that has been tainted by hatred, sin, and darkness.

**Congregation:** Lord, protect these children. We give them to You.

**Pastor:** Lord, the future seems so uncertain and yet we look at these children and mysteriously we have hope.

**Congregation:** Guide their way, Lord. Make their paths straight and give them strength.

**Pastor:** As parents, spiritual leaders, teachers, mentors, and friends, anoint us to give them an overwhelming sense of security that can only come from You.

**Congregation:** Anoint us as ministers, Lord. We want them to see You in every aspect of our lives.

**Pastor:** When they are hurting,

**Congregation:** May we minister to them through Your power.

**Pastor:** When they fail,

**Congregation:** May we offer them the same grace that You offered to us.

**Pastor:** When they are lonely,

**Congregation:** May we reach out to them and commune with them....and remind them that You will never leave us nor will You forsake us.

**Pastor:** Lord, this is our prayer for them:

We pray that You will be their shepherd that they will not be left in need. Make them to lie down in green pastures. May You lead them beside the still waters. Restore their souls. May You lead them into paths of righteousness for Your Names' sake. Yes, even though they will walk through the valley of the shadow of death, they will fear no evil for You are with them. May Your rod and Your staff comfort them. May You prepare a table before them in the presence of their enemies. May You anoint their heads with oil. May their cups run over. May goodness and mercy follow them all the days of their lives; and we pray that they will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Amen*

### *A Prayer for Children*

*Great and gracious God, who has given us life and  
who has given our lives meaning by Your presence,  
we celebrate these young lives that You have given to us,  
and ask Your blessing upon them.*

*Lay upon them Your hands of love,  
that they will always know how very precious they are to  
You—and to us.*

*Lay upon them Your hands of grace,  
so that when they fall or falter, they will know that You are  
there to help them up again.*

*Lay upon them Your hands of hope,  
that they will grow up to dream bold dreams,  
and lay upon them Your hands of courage  
so that they might bring those dreams to life.*

*Lay upon them Your hands of light,  
so that Your light might shine through them.*

*Lay upon them Your hands of joy,  
so that their lives might be filled with laughter.*

*Bless these children, O God, for we dedicate them to You.  
And in so doing, we renew our own dedication to You so that  
our lives might be a word of blessing upon the lives of our  
children.*

*As family and friends, as their family of faith, help us to be  
good stewards of the lives with which we have been  
entrusted.*

*In the name of Jesus Christ,  
who welcomes the children, we pray. Amen.*

Source: Be Thou Present: Prayers, Litanies, and  
Hymns for Christian Worship,  
Peggy Haymes, Smyth and Helwys Publishing.

## Austin Grove Baptist Church

### *Child Dedication Day*

**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

