***Psalm 127:3-4 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth.***

Today is Mother’s Day. I cannot think of a better day to commit our children to the service of God and ourselves to the support of these children. Few events in life bring joy like the birth of a child. Today, we will dedicate three children, and this indeed is a joyful occasion.

Before anything else though, we remember and honor our mothers today. In 1 Samuel 1, we meet Hannah, a woman longing to have children. She promises God that she will give, or dedicate, Samuel to God’s service all the days of Samuel’s life. We know that God visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore Samuel. We know further, in 1 Samuel 2 that God visited Hannah with additional children – the Hebrew means attended to Hannah, looked after and cared for Hannah – and blessed her with three sons and two daughters. How wonderful to know that mothers who honor God are attended to, looked after by God! We are blessed to have mothers in this church that God is attending to, and to have had mothers and grandmothers that honored God and God attended to. Ladies, let that never be lost on you. Attending to your children is a service and honoring of God. God sees. Through belief and submission to God, many children have been led to Christ and set before Him to serve others. In Proverbs 31, we encounter the virtuous wife, her value far above rubies! Yet, in verse 28, we read - *Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her*. She’s not just a wife… she is a good mother, called blessed and praised by her family. God is the Source of every good gift and perfect gift. If you had or still have a great mother, give Him praise for that gift.

Our scripture from Psalm 127 reminds us of the blessing and the heritage that children are. They are a blessing to parents, grandparents, great grandparents, and to our church. Sitting among us today are the children of yesterday, many that remember being taught, loved, and supported by our seniors in this church. Indeed, this is like a home and a family, love flowing across generations.

Today, we dedicate three children. This is a reminder that giving our children to God is one way to demonstrate our love of God. Unlike us, He neither sleeps nor slumbers, but is always watchful. Psalm 121:4 *Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.* We do well to trust Him to watch over, keep, and love these children always.

Today’s dedication reminds us that giving our children to God is a commitment to raise the children in God’s way. God disciplines those He loves. Hebrews 12:6 says in part, “*For whom the Lord loves He chastens*”. Raising a child God’s way is teaching that child the scriptures, loving him, disciplining him, providing for him. It is walking as God’s example before that child

This dedication also reminds us that giving our children to God is the start of claiming God’s plans, promises, and blessings for our child’s life. Genesis 22:15-17 *Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son - blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies*. We cannot claim God’s blessings unless we are willing to lay all on the altar, including our children. God has plans for every child. The start of claiming that plan is dedication to the Lord.

Proverbs 22:6 says – *Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it*. Teresa brings Jaxson and Lili Enriquez, Emily and Tatum bring Elbie Miller to be dedicated before God and this church today. We’ve prayed over these children, some before they were born. We continue to pray, as they grow in Christ and into their future roles within this church family. It’s a blessing. Teresa, Tatum, Emily, will you bring Lili, Jaxson, and Elbie to stand by me before this church?

**Lili Enriquez Born 10/06/2018** – The name Lili means God is my oath in Hebrew. May Lili always live her life as an oath and promise before God.

**Pastor:** Teresa, Lili is a gift from God. Before your first prayer, God knew that on October 06, 2018, Lili would make her way into this world. Teresa, God has heard and blessed you.

**Teresa**: Our family is blessed.

**Jaxson Enriquez Born 10/20/2020** – The name Jaxson is rooted in the Hebrew meaning God is gracious. May Jaxson always feel the graciousness of God in his life.

**Pastor:** Teresa, Jaxson is a gift from God. Before your first prayer, God knew that on October 20, 2020, Jaxson would make his way into this world. Teresa, God has heard and blessed you.

**Teresa**: Our family is blessed.

**Pastor:** The Bible commands us to raise our children in fear of the Lord and to teach our children of Jesus Christ. Their spiritual growth will depend heavily on the example they see in their parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. They will only hear in your words what they observe in your actions. Walk in Christlikeness, love with Christlikeness, treat others with Christlikeness, and your child will grow towards Christlikeness. In Christ, you find spiritual Light. Lili and Jaxson will grow toward this light. Teresa, are you committed to raising Lili and Jaxson in a Christlike atmosphere, intentionally seeking God, studying the scriptures, and teaching of Jesus, sharing openly and freely the things of our Savior Jesus Christ?

**Teresa:** I am committed.

**Elbie Miller Born 03/08/2024** – The name Elbie derives from Old English meaning noble gift. May Elbie always remember that she is a noble gift of God. May she pursue God, the Giver of all gifts, all her days.

**Pastor:** Tatum and Emily, Elbie is a gift from God. Before your first prayer, God knew that on March 08, 2024, Elbie would make her way into this world. Tatum and Emily, God has heard your prayers and blessed you.

**Tatum and Emily**: We are blessed.

**Pastor:** The Bible commands us as parents to raise our child in fear of the Lord and to teach her of Jesus Christ. Her spiritual growth will depend heavily on the example she sees in you. She will only hear in your words what she observes in your actions. Walk in Christlikeness, love with Christlikeness, treat one another with Christlikeness, and your child will grow towards Christlikeness. In Christ, you find spiritual Light. Elbie will grow towards this light. Tatum and Emily, are you committed to raising Elbie in a Christlike atmosphere, intentionally seeking God, studying the scriptures, and teaching her about God, sharing openly and freely the things of our Savior Jesus Christ?

**Tatum and Emily:** We are committed.

**Pastor:** **(please stand)** As a church family, the Bible commands that we support one another. Support is not just prayer. Support starts with prayer, but we must be willing to place our hands to the plow as well. We must not merely be spectators, hoping for the best, but we must be actively working to help our children along their journey. We must actively work to help Teresa, Tatum, and Emily in their journey. We must rise to the challenge by exhibiting Christlikeness in our speech and our actions, loving one another as Christ loves us. Lili, Jaxson, and Elbie will only hear in our words what they observe in our actions. Church family I ask - do you commit to being a light for Lili, Jaxson, and Elbie to grow towards? If so, please respond – We are their family.

**Congregation:** We are their family

**Pastor:** As family, we must hold one another accountable to walk in Christlikeness. We have heard commitments to raise Lili, Jaxson, and Elbie in a home following Christ. Church family I ask - do you now acknowledge these commitments and make a commitment to help them keep their promise before God and this church? If so, please respond: We do.

**Congregation:** We do.

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Almighty God, Maker of heaven and earth, we come to You now in humbleness of spirit seeking Your blessing upon these families. Lord, You have heard the commitments. You see the hearts. You know our intentions. This day, in the name of Jesus Your Son, we ask for blessing, health, and Christlikeness upon these families. We pray that all will seek Jesus. Father, we dedicate Lili, Jaxson, and Elbie to You. Make them mighty warriors in Your Kingdom. Bless them in Your pathways. Protect and prosper them in all Your ways. Guide this church as we seek to support them and honor our commitment to You. It’s in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**Sing** – final hymn and invitation.