Suggested orders of service and blessings

You might find these forms of words helpful in putting together the dedication or presentation sections of your service.

Version 1
Introduction

Leader:

We welcome [name of parent(s)] and [name of child] to this special moment in the service today. They are here to commit or ‘dedicate’ themselves to bringing up their child in the knowledge and understanding of who God is. That he loves them, has a plan for them and, most important of all, that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for them. This is an opportunity to provide a moment in which thanksgiving can be expressed, and in which God’s blessing can be sought. And it’s also a moment for the whole church family to express its loving care to all of you.

[Name of parent(s)], will you bring [name of child] and join me at the front here...
Scripture reading(s)

Deuteronomy 6: 4-7; Matthew 18: 1-5; Mark 10: 13-16; Luke 2: 22-32

Prayer of thanksgiving

Lord God, our Heavenly Father, you are the creator and sustainer of all life. None can be born without your knowledge or unloved by you. Today we thank you especially for the birth of [name of child], for their new life and the enormous potential which their life represents. Thank you too for the love of their [mum and/or dad] which surrounds them today and will always surround them. We know how much a child depends on those who care for them, how small and vulnerable they are. We ask that you will give [these/this parent(s)] and family all the wisdom, patience and insight that they will need. We thank you, too, for all the gifts and abilities which will be unveiled in [name of child] as they grow older. [Name of parent(s)] commit [name of child] to you now, with all of our thanks and praise. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parental promises

The parent(s) can at this point make promises before the wider church, who can also have an opportunity to stand with the family in promising to love and support the child.

Leader: [Name of parent(s)], do you thank God for his gift of [name of child] in your lives and will you rely on him to help you nurture (her/him)?

Parent(s): I/we do.

Leader: Will you share your understanding of the Christian faith with [name of child]?

Parent(s): I do/we will.

Leader: Will you bring them up in the fellowship of the Church?

Parent(s): I do/we will.

[The leader might ask any siblings present…]

Leader: Do you promise to look after and help care for your little brother/sister?

Brother(s)/sister(s): Yes!
[The leader might include the wider family…]

**Leader:** Will you, as members of [name of child] family, help [name of parent(s)] as they bring [him/her] up, and will you promise to surround them with all that is good and true?

**Family:** With God’s help, we will.

**Church family promises**

**Leader:** Members and friends of the church, will you promise that there will be a place for children within the church, and that you will play your part in bringing children to a point of faith in Jesus Christ as their own Lord and Saviour? If you promise this, then please stand.

**Prayer for God’s blessing**

[Name of child], may the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
May the Lord lift the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace, today and always.
Amen.

And/or

[Name of child], you are a child of God, your name is written on his heart and held safe in his hands. The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you today and always.
Amen.