

**DEDICATION SERVICE FOR  
CHARLES MONTGOMERY MASON & HENRY HARWOOD MASON,  
SONS OF AUSTIN AND SUSAN MASON**

The dedication of children is not the place for lofty promises or hollow words, but for truth and honesty.

We know full well a soul is a precious and delicate gift. We approach this act with delicate intimations. The act of dedication is a ritual of thanksgiving from the parents and by this community. It is a ritual designed to express the grace upon grace of birth, of parenting, and of being a community that is required to raise healthy, tender, and compassionate children. Since it is an act of grace this is not a binding of their souls to one religion, creed or church. As they go through life, they will be free to explore their own faith in whatever, context, and with whatever guides, they may choose. Nevertheless, we mark this time and this day as a holy moment in all of our lives.

*To the Parents*

Susan and Austin - you are the most important people in the lives of Charlie and Henry. Do you promise to teach them the principles of your faith by stories and examples, by poetry and prose, by love and action, and insofar as you are able to give them the desire to search for truth, justice, and for love in the world? And do you promise to ask for - and accept, when needed - support from those gathered here with you this morning? If so, please answer, "We do."

*To the Siblings*

Finn and Rosie - your little brothers have heard your cries and giggles; felt your hugs and warmth since their hearts started beating. Henry and Charlie will continue to study and mimic your ways and doings. You will model for them how to sing and dance, read and write, play and ride bikes, share and hoard, & love and forgive. Do you promise to continue being the best big brother and big sister you can? If so, please answer, "Yes."

*To the Congregation*

Do you as the community of Judson Church receive Charlie and Henry into your love and care, and do you promise that insofar as in you lies, you will uphold Austin and Susan in the promise they have made here today? If so, please answer, "**We do.**"

We join with our ancestors who brought their children to holy places to seek God's blessing. Like Hannah and Elkanah, Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph we too gather to commit ourselves in the formation and growth of Henry and Charlie.

Charlie and Henry, there are no other people in all the world exactly like you, and yet you are not alone. We welcome you into the community of all souls, and we dedicate ourselves to your care and support. May you share your gifts with the world, and in so doing, bring to it a greater measure of truth, beauty, and love.

And now Charles Montgomery Mason & Henry Harwood Mason

May the goodness within you continue to grow and expand.

May you pursue love with abandon.

May you continually find doors unto life.

Peace be with you. Amen.