

Children Involved in Worship

Worship is one of the basic ways people learn what it means to be Christian. Children learn worship by worshipping with their parents and the congregation Sunday after Sunday.

- They learn they belong to Christ and are welcome in His Church.
- They come to know the Lord's prayer, the Doxology, and the Gloria Patri. They become familiar with the Bible and the Hymns.
- They build a fund of memorable, shared experiences of Christian community against which they may draw when they are older.
- The beauty of music and art enriches them as expressions of praise and a human response to God.
- They hear stories from the Bible read and interpreted, and begin to see Christian worship as one place where God speaks to them. They witness Baptism and Communion as signs of God's love and grace. They discover that they are valued by God and by His people at Church.

Bringing children to worship may not always be easy, but it is an essential part of their growth in Christ. Support, tolerance, and encouragement of children and their parents are ways that the members of the church fulfill the vows they promise in the Sacrament of Baptism.

Parent's Guide to the Service for The Lord's Day

WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD (Our approach to God.)

Prelude

This is a time to quiet our hearts and minds to prepare for worship.

Call to Worship

Words from Scripture (and other sources) remind us that worship centers on God. God takes the initiative. We respond.

Hymn of Praise

Adoration and Praise are the cornerstones of true worship. Singing enables us to express our joy.

Prayer of Confession

To be open to God's gracious gift of forgiveness, we must acknowledge our sin.

Declaration of Pardon

The good news found in Scripture. "In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God."

Congregational Response to Pardon

Together we celebrate God's gift of forgiveness with a choral response.

The Peace

Sharing God's peace and love with one another.

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED (God's message to us.)

Prayer for Illumination

Asking for God's help in hearing the message.

Responsive reading

Passages from Scripture read responsively.

Anthem

God's message heard through music.

Children's Sermon (9:30 service only)

A message geared to children about the lesson. Following the children's sermon the children may go to the foyer to listen to the sermon while working with art materials.

Lessons from the Scripture

Readings, which are often drawn from an ecumenical lectionary, which lists lessons for each week of the Church Year.

Sermon

A proclamation of God's activity and faithfulness, as revealed in Jesus Christ; and a guide for us in our lives as Christians

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD (Our response to the Good news)

Affirmation of Faith

Together we proclaim our faith.

Hymn of Response

This is our response to the proclamation of the word. *Children who retired to the foyer to listen to the sermon return to the worship service.

The Sacraments of Communion and Baptism or a special Worship Event

These may take place at this time.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Intercessory prayer for the church universal, the world, those in authority, and those in need or distress, and closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Service of Stewardship

We return a portion of our gifts for use in our church and in the world.

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

We sing a song of praise to God for our blessings

TAKING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

(we prepare to go out and share God's love)

Closing Hymn

This is a song of parting.

Benediction

A blessing and charge for us to go and serve Jesus Christ.

Postlude

This is music to close our worship service.

A, B, C's for Parents and Friends of Parents

Arrive in time to find a good place to sit. Sitting near the front will provide younger children with a better view. Also make sure there is time for a drink and a visit to the bathroom.

Build a sense of inclusion for the child throughout the worship service. Be certain the child has a children's bulletin; signs the attendance register; looks up the scripture verses; passes the offering plate; and holds a hymnal. Children tend to model the behavior of adults, so be sure to be quietly attentive while also actively participating. (Colored pencils and pads of paper are available on the counter as you enter the sanctuary.)

Clue in children as to what will happen next. Give guidance during the service.

Discuss worship at home to prepare them. Go over the bulletin from the week before to refresh their memories.

Express your gladness at having children in worship. Be sure to welcome the children near you during the Peace and include them in your conversations before and after worship to let them know they belong.

Free yourself from worry about children's behavior and be open to receiving their ministry to you.