

Children Are Welcome in Worship!

Jesus welcomes
little children &
embraces them.
So do we!

TIPS BEFORE WORSHIP

Let's play church! Call a practice session at home. Use the worship bulletin, sing songs, say prayers, mark yourselves with the sign of the cross, read from a children's Bible, recite the Lord's Prayer and Creeds, bless one another.

Tell them your expectations. This goes a long way in helping your child succeed. Remember they are children and not little adults.

Decide with your child on a signal that lets your child know it is time to sit still or whisper or be quiet.

Bring something soft and quiet for little ones to hold during worship.

The church has clipboards and paper, so they can draw pictures or write. This is handy when the Pastor invites the children to draw a picture about the Bible reading!

Express your joy at having your child worship with you. Look for other parents and children worshipping together and thank them for their presence.

Invite assistance. As a parent and caregiver, it is okay to ask for help.

Free yourself of anxieties. Do not expect perfection. Relax and worship. Give prayers of thanks to God for your child's presence. We are blessed and overjoyed to have you and your child in worship with us!

TIPS DURING WORSHIP

Seating: Sit near the front or along the center aisle so your child can see what is happening. This reduces distractions, and adults are less likely to block their view. Sit close to one another and put an approving arm around your child from time to-time (not just when they have the wiggles). Rest in God's presence together.

Sign of the Cross: Teach your child to mark themselves with the sign of the cross. Do it together at the beginning of worship, when you receive communion, and at the end during the benediction.

Praying: Teach them the Lord's Prayer so they can pray with us and the word "amen" (which means "I agree, so be it, let it be so"). When it's time to pray, give your child a heads up to be ready to say, "Amen."

Singing: Dance in place, sway back and forth. Help them learn some of the words of the song, especially words in a refrain. Clap, snap your fingers, praise God with body, mind, heart, and soul!

Sharing of the Peace: Teach your child to say, "The peace of the Lord be with you," and to respond, "And also with you." Practice at home. Encourage your child to shake hands or give a high five to those around, and don't forget to greet other children near you.

Offering: Give some money to your child to place in the offering plate or let them put your offering in there.

Communion: As a parent you decide when your child is ready to receive Holy Communion. Have them keep their arms folded across their chest if you want them to receive a blessing rather than bread and grape juice.

Breaks: If your child needs a break or needs to get the wiggles out, don't hesitate to take them out of worship for a few minutes.