

Children in Worship

BEFORE WORSHIP

Talk about expectations on your way to church.

Get a drink and visit the restroom before entering the sanctuary.

Ask the usher for the children's resources and/or activity bag for the children 5 years and younger.

Sit where your child can readily see the chancel area and visually participate in worship.

Point out the pulpit, altar, lectern, organ and communion rail. Discuss how they are used.

Look for colors and symbols in the banners, windows, paraments and other artwork. Explain that they are there to remind us of God's love and care.

Find the crosses in the church. Tell your child that the cross reminds us of Jesus.

Talk about people who help during the service and mention the jobs that they do (Pastor, reader, usher, organist, acolyte, etc.).

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DURING WORSHIP

Be consistent in your expectations and routines.

Allow your child to sit in a comfortable manner.

If your child wiggles, avoid fretting: Adults wiggle too!

Participate joyfully! Your child will model your actions. Don't worry that your child doesn't listen to what you say, know that he/she watches everything that you do.

Make church a warm and loving place. Discipline in a kind manner. Demonstrate forgiveness.

Help your child listen for a key words, such as Jesus, God or love. Look ahead in the readings to discover another word that will be used often.

Explain what is happening as the service unfolds. Answer your child's questions briefly and accurately.

Involve your child in the worship service. Sing together. Fold hands for prayers; stand and sit at appropriate times. Take them to communion with you.

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AFTER WORSHIP

Greet the Pastor at the door. Lift your child to be at the Pastor's eye level. Encourage your child to shake hands with the Pastor.

Talk about the worship service by mentioning parts that were especially meaningful to you (the anthem, sermon, a hymn, etc.)

Make a praise booklet. Have your child draw pictures that reflect what God has done or things for which your child is thankful. Present the book to your Pastor.

Sing hymns and songs together.

Read and reflect on Scripture readings together.

Pray for the Pastors, organist, and others who have led the worship service. Pray for the congregation members who were included in prayers in the worship service.

Encourage your child to draw a picture for Jesus (of worship, of Jesus' love, of a favorite Bible story) and take this to worship to place in the offering plate the following Sunday.



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Dear Parents,

In the worship we tell and retell in ritual and song the story of salvation. We establish our identity as part of God's family, finding our place in the long history of God's people of which we and our children have become a part through Baptism. To gather for this important activity is both a duty and a delight.

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship AS A FAMILY. From experience we know that there are great benefits for a family that shares the time of worship together.

Your conversation with your child will convey the importance of the worship experience. Through your attitude, your child will sense that the act of worship is a joyous opportunity and a fulfilling experience.

Your expectations that your child will participate in worship (standing, sitting, praying, singing, listening) will speak volumes that say that children, too, can come to Jesus.

Guiding children in worship is a privilege. It can be accomplished in love.

May the Lord bless your worship together.