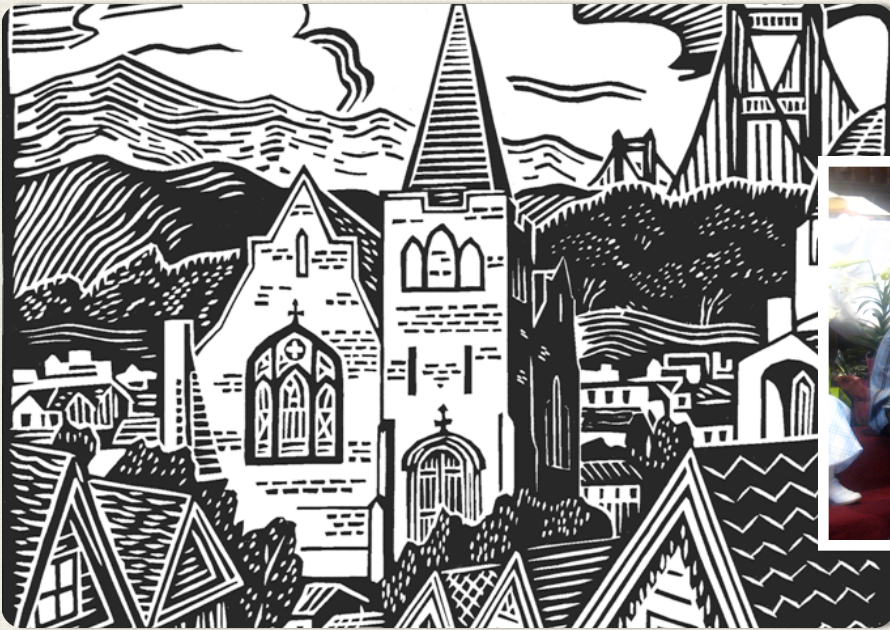


A KID'S GUIDE TO WORSHIP



Children in Worship

St. John's believes that children in worship are important to their spiritual formation. Participating with adults in worship helps children develop a sense of belonging to a community and helps them develop their identity with the

people of God and as a person of God. Having children in worship encourages us to examine how we engage in worship, our faith, and with each other. They remind us that there isn't a right way or one way to worship and to be open to

the spontaneity of the Holy Spirit. They remind us that God is present in the messy-ness of our lives, giving us opportunity to reexamine the meaning of sacred and holy. They provide us lots of opportunities to exercise patience, grace, and love.



PRAYING



WORSHIPING



LEARNING

WELCOME TO WORSHIP



Message to Parents & Adults

Worship at St. John's is an intergenerational experience, meaning all ages are invited to participate in worship. Our worship is designed so that whether you are an introvert or extrovert, tactile or cerebral, younger or older, active or still, or new to church or familiar, there are parts of worship where you are invited to experience God's presence.

Kids of all ages are welcome to stay and participate in worship. Therefore, kids are welcome to wander. There are interactive boards, books, and stuffed animals in the back. Worship-themed activities are available.

the lighthouse

The nursery is located in the library (behind sanctuary) for kids ages 0-3.

little mariners

Preschool Sunday School is located in the fireside room (through the doors next to the chapel) for kids ages 2-4. Begins at beginning of worship.

k thru 5th grade

Worship is designed for K-5th grade to worship with their family. During the sermon, they are invited to the chapel for an age-appropriate lesson and return to continue worship with their family. During worship there are worship-themed activities provided.

Community Covenant

Intergenerational worship has its challenges. It is difficult for all ages to worship in a way that is comfortable for all, yet it is vital and important to our worship experience.

In order for worship to be comfortable for all, we all covenant the following:

For the St. John's Community:

- I recognize that being a part of an intergenerational faith community means that there are times, I must exercise grace, patience, and nurturing love.
- If the noises of children make it difficult for me to participate at my comfort, I will choose to move to an area in the sanctuary that is less distracting.
- I will model how to worship in an intergenerational faith community by doing my part to provide a safe, open, real, and welcoming atmosphere.
- If I have any thoughts, concerns, and/or ideas, I will express those to the pastors or elders.

For parents and families:

- As a parent, I will worship as a family and model for my children how to worship, such

as reading prayers together, singing together, and engaging in prayer activities together.

- As a parent of K-5 child, I will review the K-5 covenant with them about how to be respectful in worship.
- If I have any thoughts, concerns, and/or ideas, I will express those to the pastors and elders.

For Kids in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade:

Because I am old enough and an example to the younger kids, I promise the following:

- While in the ARK Program, I will listen to the teacher, engage in the story & activity, and respect the space and materials.
- If I choose not to participate in the ARK Program as described in covenant #1, I may sit with my family in worship.
- While in worship, I will sit quietly, participate in worship, or do a quiet age-appropriate activity (like coloring or reading) so that those around me may have a comfortable worship experience.
- During special worship services (like Interactive Sundays), I will do my best to

participate with my family and not distract others by going downstairs unsupervised or engaging in loud conversation with my friends.

- During worship, I will respect others by not eating the food before worship ends or engaging in loud activity (like wrestling and jumping off the stairs.)

It is challenging to be an intergenerational faith community, but with the right boundaries and agreed-upon covenant, it is extremely rewarding. This covenant isn't a "children shall be seen and not heard" policy, but guidelines that will give permission for all to express themselves in worship, in church, in faith, and to each other that is respectful, welcoming, and caring.



Hello kids!

We welcome you here this morning! You belong to God's family and are an important part of St. John's family. We are glad that you have come to worship God with us. This morning we will worship God in many different ways, which fall into four different actions: hearing, singing, praying, and giving.

Throughout this book, you will see different parts of worship explained. If you have a question, ask your parent, any adult, or a pastor. Chances are they may have questions about worship too.



HEAR GOD'S
WORD



SING TO GOD



PRAY TO GOD



GIVE TO GOD



PRELUDE

A PRELUDE IS A FANCY WAY OF SAYING "MUSIC THAT IS PLAYED BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS." USUALLY, THE PRELUDE IS PLAYED ON OUR HISTORIC JOHNSON ORGAN THAT IS OVER A HUNDRED YEARS OLD.

DURING THIS TIME, YOU MAY WANT TO LOOK AT THE WORSHIP BULLETIN TO SEE IF ANYTHING SPECIAL IS HAPPENING TODAY.

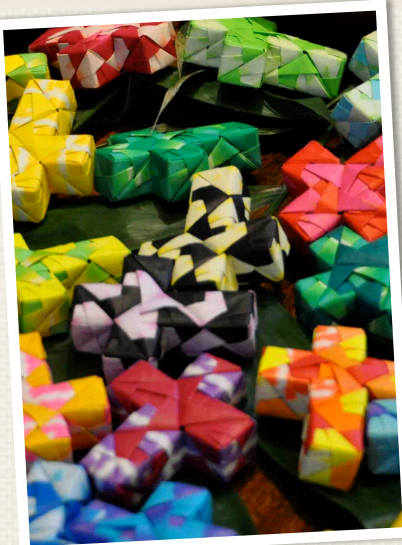


WELCOME

AT THE BEGINNING OF WORSHIP, WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO ST. JOHN'S.

THERE IS A BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE. DURING THIS TIME, YOU MAY WANT TO SIT QUIETLY OR SAY A SHORT PRAYER.

AT THE END OF SILENCE, THE CHOIR USUALLY SINGS A SHORT SONG.



CALL TO WORSHIP

WE SHARE WORDS THAT INVITE US TO BEGIN WORSHIPING GOD.

SOMETIMES, WE SAY WORDS TOGETHER OR SING.



HYMN OR SONG

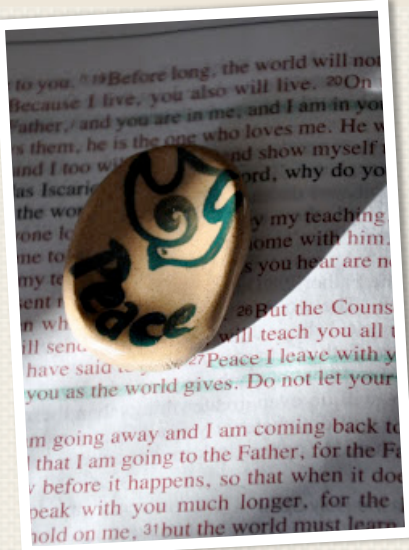
WE STAND AND SING A JOYFUL SONG TO PRAISE OUR GOD.



CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

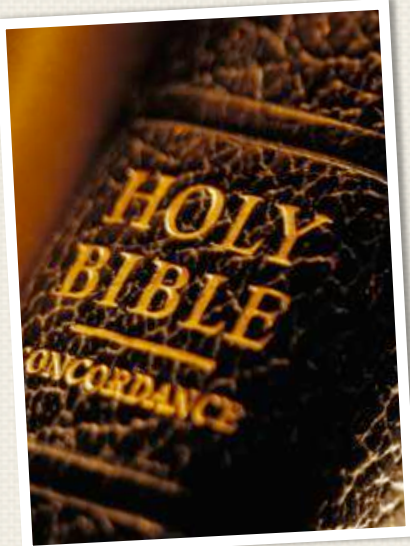
NOBODY'S PERFECT. GOD KNOWS THAT. WE TRY TO FOLLOW GOD AND DO THE RIGHT THING. BUT WHEN WE DON'T, WE CAN ASK GOD TO FORGIVE US. THIS IS WHAT "CONFESSION" MEANS.

AFTER SAYING WE ARE SORRY, WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS THAT GOD FORGIVES US FOR EVERYTHING. THANKS BE TO GOD!



SHARE PEACE

WE SHARE THE PEACE OF GOD'S LOVE WITH GOD'S FAMILY. WE CAN SAY, "PEACE BE WITH YOU" OR "GOD LOVES YOU AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT."



SCRIPTURE READING

GOD'S WORD IS WRITTEN IN SCRIPTURES. LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY! CAN YOU FIND TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING IN THE BIBLE? THE READINGS CAN BE FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT (FRONT OF THE BIBLE) OR THE NEW TESTAMENT (BACK OF THE BIBLE).



MESSAGE

USUALLY THE PASTOR TALKS ABOUT WHAT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS MEAN. WE CAN LEARN ABOUT GOD'S LOVE FOR US. WE CAN ALSO LEARN ABOUT HOW GOD WANTS US TO LIVE TODAY.

KIDS IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN TO FIFTH GRADE, CAN GO TO THE CHAPEL TO PARTICIPATE IN A LESSON DESIGNED FOR THEM.



HYMN OR SONG

WE STAND AND SING ANOTHER HYMN. DOES THE HYMN REMIND YOU OF ANYTHING YOU JUST HEARD IN THE SCRIPTURE READINGS OR MESSAGE OR LESSON?

COMMUNITY PRAYER



FIRST WE SHARE OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS WITH EACH OTHER. THEN WE SAY TOGETHER A SPECIAL PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES:

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
HOLY IS YOUR NAME.
YOUR KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD;
FORGIVE US OUR SINS,
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.
SAVE US FROM THE TIME OF TRIAL
AND DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
FOR THE KINGDOM,
THE POWER AND THE GLORY ARE YOURS,
NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN



ANTHEM

THE CHOIR SINGS A SONG THAT HELPS US WORSHIP. HOW DOES THIS MUSIC MAKE YOU FEEL? WHAT DO THE WORDS SAY ABOUT GOD?



OFFER LIVES & GIFTS

OUR GIFTS SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE CHURCH. WE GIVE OUR TIME, OUR TALENTS, AND OUR MONEY. WE GIVE OURSELVES. WE GIVE TO GOD BECAUSE GOD GIVES SO MUCH TO US. EVERYTHING WE HAVE COMES FROM GOD. LISTEN TO THE MUSIC AND THINK ABOUT THAT.

TOGETHER WE PRAY GOD WILL HELP US USE THESE GIFTS TO DO GOD'S WORK.



HYMN OR SONG

WE STAND AGAIN FOR OUR LAST SONG.

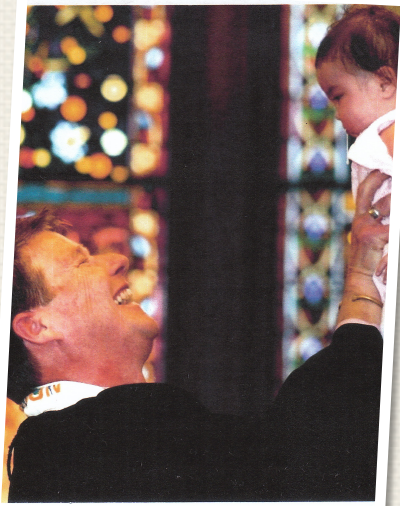


BLESSING & POSTLUDE

AT THE END OF WORSHIP, WE STAND AND LISTEN TO THE BLESSING, WHICH MEANS "GOOD WORD."

THE "GOOD WORD" IS THAT GOD GOES WITH US INTO THE WORLD TO DO GOD'S WORK.

WE LISTEN TO JOYFUL MUSIC AS WE GO. WE GO TO LOVE OTHERS JUST AS GOD LOVES US.



BAPTISM

SOMETIMES WE HAVE A BAPTISM. THROUGH BAPTISM, A BABY, CHILD, OR ADULT IS REMINDED THAT THEY ARE A CHILD OF GOD. WE PROMISE TO HELP THE PERSON GROW TO KNOW GOD'S LOVE. CAN YOU THINK OF SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO WELCOME THIS PERSON TO OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY?



COMMUNION

COMMUNION OR LORD'S SUPPER IS CELEBRATED BY CHRISTIANS EVERYWHERE. USUALLY THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, WE HAVE COMMUNION. THROUGH COMMUNION, WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD, REMEMBER JESUS, CELEBRATE OUR TOGETHERNESS.

WE DO INTINCTION, WHICH MEANS TEARING OFF A PIECE OF BREAD AND DIPPING IT IN JUICE.



INTERACTIVE PRAYER STATIONS

SOMETIMES IN PLACE OF COMMUNITY PRAYER, WE HAVE INTERACTIVE PRAYER STATIONS, WHERE ALL AGES ARE INVITED TO INTERACT AND REFLECT IN PRAYER ON FAITHFUL QUESTIONS.

QUIET SONGS ARE SUNG DURING THIS TIME.