

About the Children's Worship Table



Our goals:

- We hope to provide space and opportunities that may help children in worship to focus on and understand the service better. It is our hope that through repeated exposure to worship, that our children will be ready to participate in worship regularly as teens and into adulthood.
- We will try this out for the fall, with the hope of continuing on a more permanent basis. Please do be ready to share your thoughts on this new project with the Children's Ministry Committee.

How does it work?

- Worship will begin as usual, and can pick up children's Bibles and activity clip boards from ushers on their way into the sanctuary.
- Following the children's sermon, members of the class that is scheduled for the children's worship table will be invited to gather at the table under the Arnold Park balcony to sit together. Older classes (5th and 6th grade) will have the choice to sit as a group in the balcony instead of at the table.
- The bulletin will list the class that is scheduled to be at the table each Sunday.

What do the children do?

- The children's worship table is stocked with basic coloring supplies, children's books and play-doh. In addition, each week, there will be different activities to go specifically with the lessons of that particular worship service.
- Activities are generally silent and self-directed, with printed directions as well as an adult "host" (generally, the regular teacher(s) of that class) at the table to assist as needed.
- We encourage children to stand and join in hymns and prayers, and we will have appropriate resources at the table to help them do that.

Questions?

As always, please feel free to contact Becky D'Angelo-Veitch, coordinator of Children's Ministry and Congregational Life with any questions or ideas! 271-6537 ext. 118 or rveitch@thirdpresbyterian.org.

Children's Worship Table—hints and ideas for kids. . .

HOW TO BE A GOOD WORSHIPPER—

- **Participate** in places where the whole congregation is doing something like saying a unison prayer or singing a hymn.
- **Challenge yourself!** Follow along with the scripture reading in the Bible. Listen to the sermon. Try to stay focused for an entire prayer. Look for themes in the service (does the topic of the hymns match one of the scripture readings? Is the psalm from the call to worship the same psalm that one of the anthems is based on? How does the quote on the front cover of the bulletin connect with the Bible readings and the sermon?)
- **Keep a list of questions** in your brain. You can ask the pastor who gave the sermon to tell you more about a part you didn't understand. You can ask your teacher about how the Bible story connects to the lessons you will have in Sunday School coming up. You can compare notes with your family about what everyone's favorite part of the service was.
- **Use the resources** at the table to help occupy you during the service. Draw a picture, knead play-doh, complete a puzzle, trace a finger labyrinth while you listen to an anthem, read today's Bible story in a children's Bible.
- **Try to be quiet** when the more quiet parts of the worship are going on. This means using a whisper if you need to ask a question, trying to be quiet with how you handle things at the table (ex. don't drop scissors or bang the play-doh can on the table to loosen the clay inside)
- **If you have to get up from your seat**, try to do it at a transition (as a hymn is beginning or ending, between the prayers, during the offertory, etc.)
- **Look and listen for God.** Was there a piece of music that gave you goosebumps? Did a line of the prayer feel like it was written just for you? Did the sun stream through the window and catch the light in a perfectly beautiful way? People hope to experience God when they come to church. When a moment feels extra-special, we can remember that God is always with us.