

## **ABC's For Parents**

**Arrive** in time to find a good place to sit. Sitting near the front will help young children have a better view of the worship service.

**Bring** something for little ones to hold or look at. Children's worship folders are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. Children's books are on the bookshelf in the east alcove.

**Contribute** visibly in worship by singing, praying, greeting others, etc. Enjoy being a worship role model in all that you do.

**Discuss** worship at home, helping prepare children to participate, and talking with them afterwards about their understanding of the service.

**Express** your gladness at having children in worship! Greet the children near you during the Passing of the Peace and help make worship as fun as possible.

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



## **What to Expect from Your Child in Worship**

### **3 to 5 Year Olds**

As members of the family of faith, preschool children are needed to complete the circle at God's table. It helps to remember that a preschool child comes to worship with a short attention span, great energy, and a growing curiosity about everything! They often spend time climbing on, off, & under the pew, sticking their fingers in the communion cup holders, and drawing on the bulletin. At this age, they can be assisted with finding the page numbers of the hymns, can sing along with everyone else (maybe using their own words!), and can pray some of the Lord's Prayer. They can pass the peace and help pass the offering plate.

### **6 & 7 Year Olds**

These children come to worship with increasing abilities to read and listen, though they still find lots of good reasons to wiggle! Early elementary kids usually love to participate where they can: writing their names in the register, sitting and standing with the rest of the congregation, and praying collectively. They can often find the hymns, hold the hymnal, and sing some of the words. They can read a lot of words in the bulletin and are beginning to recognize elements of communion and baptism.

### **8 to 12 Year Olds**

Older elementary children come to worship with great reading skills and the ability to understand the bulletin – both as a guide to worship and as a great paper airplane!

They can sit still for most of the service, but will take the chance to run up the aisle if it arises. Most kids this age can read the bulletin, find the Scripture lesson, and follow along as Scripture is read. They can sing hymns pretty well and understand a lot of the sermon. They can pray with the congregation and may be able to memorize the Lord's Prayer and Doxology. They understand why we collect the offering and may want to serve as an Acolyte.

All of our children are part of Christ's church, and they – just like the adults – are called to worship God. They don't participate the same way adults do, but they grow in understanding with each worship service, and that participation helps them learn that they are valuable members of the family of faith.



## **Child Care**

All children are welcome in worship, but there may be times when you feel they are better nurtured in a less formal setting.

Childcare is provided for infants through 5<sup>th</sup> graders by our professional staff. Those younger than 4 may stay in the nursery throughout worship. Pre-K and Elementary children may participate in Sunday school.

Children 4 and older are encouraged to attend church through the Children's Sermon, after which they are escorted to the child care and Sunday school rooms.

Children who have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade and are not members of the Children's Choir are invited to remain in worship.

## **Baby Love Room**

If your infant needs some baby love during the worship service, there is a Baby Love Room near the back upstairs balcony. It is equipped with a changing table, a rocker, and comfortable chairs for feeding. You can let your baby scream in there and still hear the service!



## **Children at Central Presbyterian Church**

*"Whoever welcomes this little child  
in my name welcomes me;  
and whoever welcomes me  
welcomes the one who sent me."*  
Luke 9:49

Children are welcome and encouraged to be in worship at Central Presbyterian Church! We know that it can be a challenge to bring a young child into worship. They giggle, poke, fidget and talk. But they also sing, pray, give – and learn that worship is the highest duty and greatest joy of all Christians. We welcome you and your children whole-heartedly!

All children are invited to make use of the Worship Folders (found at the sanctuary entrances) and the books on the Children's Bookshelf (located in the sanctuary's east alcove).

If you have questions, comments, or would like information about nursery childcare, please ask an usher. If you'd like information about Sunday school, Children's Choir, becoming an acolyte, or other resources for children in worship, please contact Carolina Treviño, Christian Educator for Children & Youth at [carolina@cpccaustin.org](mailto:carolina@cpccaustin.org).

# **CHILDREN IN WORSHIP**

## **A Guide for Parents and Friends of Children**



**C E N T R A L  
P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H**  
**Deliberately Diverse and Fully Inclusive**

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