

## Family Friendly Worship

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." --Matthew 19:14*

### Principles:

- While this service is geared toward families with younger children, all are welcome.
- Our aim is the full, conscious, and active participation of worshipers of all ages.
- All ages are able to function in roles of worship leadership.
- Music must aim to be accessible to all ages.

### Order of Worship

#### Prelude

#### **Thanksgiving for Baptism (adapted from *Water, Come Down!* by Walt Wangerin)**

*In remembrance of your baptism, you are invited to gather around the baptismal font, dip your fingers in the water, and make the sign of the cross on your forehead.*

This is the water that flows in a river, the River of Life, forever and ever-  
Yes! This is the water came down to your town, to find you, children, and you it found—the day you were baptized.

This is the water they washed you in, your head, your heart, your soul, your skin,  
Clean of the devil! Clean from sin, the day you were baptized.

Your family was there that holy day, they heard the good baptizer say, *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Spirit, Three in One, I baptize you, dear child.*

This is the water that fell on you three times with the Word that made you new while everyone smiled and smiled.

And now we call you by your brand-new name; beautiful, beautiful children of flame,  
You are the children of God.

Let us pray.

Holy God, you are the river of life. Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away our sin.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **Baptism Song: *Peace Like a River***

## **Greeting & Prayer of the Day**

God is good.

**All the time!**

All the time.

**God is good!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray... **Amen.**

## **Children's Church**

*Zion's youngest worshippers are invited to go downstairs to experience this week's Bible story in their own language and at their own level of engagement and understanding. They will return during the hymn of the day following the sermon. Children's Church is geared toward children ages 2 – grade 2, but all children are welcome to attend as their parents/adult caregivers see fit. As the children leave, we will sing the first verse and refrain of I Love to Tell the Story.*

**Children's Church Song: *I Love to Tell the Story* (ELW 661) verse 1 & refrain**

## **First Reading**

**Psalm**

**Second Reading**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel Reading**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day**

**Apostles' Creed**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

*In addition to our regular offering, a noisy offering is collected by children. You are invited to offer your spare change. This offering goes to support the work of Heifer International, a ministry that our children also support through their Sunday School offering.*

**Offering Prayer**

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Words of Institution**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be 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.**

### **Song during communion**

### **Prayer after communion**

### **Blessing**

*Children are invited to come forward and share the blessing with the congregation.*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **Sending Song: *Lord, Fill My Life***

*Children are invited to accompany this song with rhythm instruments.*

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

*Portions of Thanksgiving for Baptism, Greeting, Peace, Offering Prayer, Blessing, and Dismissal  
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*Peace Like a River and Lord Fill My Life by Paul Frantsen are available at [www.crossthesky.com](http://www.crossthesky.com).*

### **Proposed Order of Worship for Children's Church:**

\*Circle Time (welcome each child by name)

\*Prayer Time

\*Open the Bible

Song Time (optional, if time allows)

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

\* indicates that this is part of the *Spark Lectionary* curriculum

### **Staffing of Children's Church:**

one leader and 2-3 assistants each Sunday

a monthly or weekly rotation will be established once we know how many people are interested in serving as either leaders or assistants

### **Principles of Children's Church:**

- Our aims are:
  - for Zion's youngest worshipers to experience Bible stories in their own language and at their own level of engagement and understanding.
  - for the parents/adult caregivers of these youngest worshipers to be able to give their full attention to the hearing of God's Word through Scripture readings and sermon
- Bible stories will follow the lectionary, so that parents and children are engaging the same texts each week.
- Children's Church will be geared toward children ages 2-grade 2, but all children are welcome to attend as their parents/adult caregivers see fit.
- Children are still **MOST DEFINITELY WELCOME** in worship. Children's Church is just one component of the entire worship service.