

Children's Worship and Transition Class FAQ

Why do we want children in worship?

In principle we want kids to learn to worship with the whole congregation, and we believe this will be beneficial for them in the long run of life. When kids worship with adults it embodies the unity of the church and expresses God's desire to work not just in individuals but families and communities.

We have our children in the service to worship with us for about half of the service before they leave during the sermon. Don't you find it refreshing or even inspiring to hear children singing with joy unconcerned with what people around them think? Jesus commended a child-like faith and adults should learn something from them (Matthew 18:2-4; 19:13-15).

Why do we have *Children's Worship*?

In practice any parent knows the tension and effort required to have their children sit with them and participate in the worship service. Since that is not easy we want to help both our parents and our children to learn to worship together with the whole congregation. There is not a simple way to do this because not every parent and every child has the same personality, the same desire, or is at the same place spiritually. But Children's Worship is one way we can help.

There are a few reasons we have Children's Worship. One reason is that it is an opportunity for young children to hear an age appropriate Christ-centered message while remaining in a reverent/worshipful manner. Another reason is to teach them how to pray and tithe, to know the bible, and to understand the sacraments. Still another reason is that it is helpful so that parents can listen to the preaching of the bible, God's word.

Why did the church increase *Children's Worship* to 1st grade?

Since children grow into adults they must worship with the entire congregation at some point if the church is to continue from generation to generation. The question is when? The Elders of the church and Children's Worship leaders have considered this and decided that children's worship will go through 1st grade.

There are a few reasons why we have chosen for it to go through 1st grade.

As a church we are committed to welcoming people all along their spiritual journey whether just curious or already committed to following Jesus. We also recognize that many people are either new to church or are not used to having their kids in the service with them. Whatever your situation we want to help you and your children. Extending the age to 1st grade is a way we can help parents and kids who are not used to what we do.

We also think we have to draw the line somewhere so that parents realize the need to train their children while they are young. We think that by 2nd grade kids are able to sit still better and can begin to listen to some part of the sermon (though certainly not all of it—that's hard enough for adults).

Why do kids come back into the cafeteria for communion?

We want them to observe others taking communion which will prompt them to ask questions about it. AS they become more curious they will want to learn about it. They will wonder why they can't take it. The reason they cannot eat and drink of the bread and cup with us is because it is only for those who have made a public profession of faith (see 1 Corinthians 11:28-29). And that leads to discussion about them needing to put their own faith in Jesus. That is what we want for our children.

How will that work?

After the sermon we will collect the offering and sing a song. During that time the children will come back into the cafeteria. Then we will take communion. Your child can walk with you to get the bread and cup, or you can have him/her remain in their seat.

Do my children have to go to *Children's Worship*?

No. You are welcome to keep them with you in worship. We strive to have a reverent yet relaxed atmosphere for worship and we want people to participate. So we are very tolerant of wiggly and not so quiet children. We know they are still learning and that parents are still training them.

Can my 2 year old or 2nd grader go to *Children's Worship*?

Since we have to draw the line somewhere the answer is, 'no'. We have a significant age gap with the current children so please respect the age group.

How does the *Children's Worship Transition Class* tie in with *Children's Worship*?

Children's Worship is committed to a multi-faceted approach of equipping parents to coach and assist their children in congregational worship, and this transition class is one of the approaches. This class is short-term and focused on going specifically through the different parts of the service. It also has them rejoin their parent(s) mid-way to put into practice what they are learning.

Who is the *Children's Worship Transition Class* for?

The class is for 2nd graders who have not already been through the class last year. This year is unique in that it is a year when we changed the age groupings and has created a 2nd grade class who has already been through the Transition Class last year. However, as a growing church we always have children who did not get to go through this class. So it helps them.

My child went to this class last year, but I think my child would benefit by going again. Can my child go again?

The class is not intended to be a general refresher for children who have been through it already. However, we are committed to help make growing followers of Christ (both of parents and children). So if you think your child needs to go through the transition class again then please talk to Pastor Fletcher about it. We want to know the specific reasons and issues so that we can have our teachers address them appropriately.