

Talk about worship at home during the week. That's sort of like something that was said in the sermon last week. Do you remember the story we heard in church? We could pray part of the prayer we used in worship.

Talk about what people / events might need our prayers.

Child care in the Nursery is provided for young children, however, they are encouraged to attend the worship service as soon as they are ready.

MISSION STATEMENT

With God's help, we at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church seek to:

- pursue a common life, consistent with our Anglican heritage, that involves Eucharist, teaching, fellowship and prayer.*
- witness to the Gospel by word and example*
- recognize and serve Christ in all persons*
- promote justice, peace and love*



Let the little children
come to me

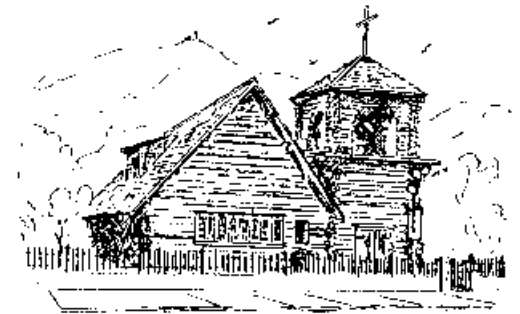
Luke 18:16

Children

In

Worship

*St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Chelan, WA*



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**RELAX!
THE WHOLE FAMILY
IS IMPORTANT HERE!**

Children are valued and nurtured at St. Andrew's and we have a commitment to help them learn how to worship. Perhaps they won't always understand what is going on or what is being said, but they can understand that this is a place where they are loved and accepted.

**SUGGESTIONS
FOR THE CONGREGATION**

Remember the commitment we have as a congregation to the children in our midst.

During the peace, greet children as well as their parents.

Hand offering plates to children, not over their heads.

Invite a child you know to sit with you during worship on occasion, even when the parent(s) is present.

Understand when parents need to take younger children to child care and then return to worship.

Have patience with the learning process; we are all children of God.

Compliment children who have participated and listened attentively during the service.

**SUGGESTIONS
FOR PARENTS**

This pamphlet is offered for the occasions when your child is not in Sunday School but is with you in the worship space. Allow its suggestions to help you relax and appreciate the children present. The Kingdom of Heaven does belong to them!

The formal worship service can provide an excellent opportunity for parents to be involved in the spiritual nurturing of their children. Talk with them about the service. Explain what is happening. Help them catch your enthusiasm and happiness about being in church.

Allow enough arrival time to get settled and to have bathroom visits before the service begins.

Children who can easily see what is going on will feel more a part of the activity. Try sitting up front for this reason. If possible, seat children with an adult between them.

Introduce your children to people nearby.

Ensure that children have a bulletin. Help your child find and identify music, readings, prayers, etc. Let your child underline words he or she can read.

Allow children to participate in the offering by sharing their own financial resources.

Children learn worship etiquette by participation. Feel free to whisper to children to teach. Explain the meaning of any difficult words or phrases in music or liturgy. Share your own positive feelings about the various parts of the worship service.

Remember that it is hard for children to sit for long. Allow children to sit or kneel on the floor and use the pew as a desk if necessary.

Children are invited to receive holy communion if they have been baptized and if the parents consent. Alternatively, they may receive a blessing.