

## CELEBRATING CHILDREN

*Welcome! We enthusiastically welcome you and your family here today! Children are an important part of God's family. Here are a few ideas to help you and your family get the most out of worship today.*

- **Relax and be at peace.** We know kids are wrigglers. We were once kids, too. Grab a **children's bulletin**, **worship bag** (outside of the left front door & rear lobby), or a couple of **books** (rear lobby).
- For children 4 and under who need more wiggle room, there is a staffed nursery upstairs.
- Consider sitting toward the front and along the aisle where it's easier for little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of heads.
- Quietly explain what is happening. Let children cross things off in the bulletin as they happen.
- Help children navigate the hymns and songs, and invite them to count how many times they come across a given word or phrase. Use it as a conversation starter at dinner or in the car.
- When it's time to pray, join your kids in using the kneelers. Ask them for whom do they want to pray?
- During the Peace, encourage your child to wave, shake hands, and give high fives or fist bumps.
- Allow kids to participate in the offering by putting in your offering or their own gift, such as a prayer drawing or change from their allowance. It's a great way to encourage a practice of gratitude.
- The core of our worship is Holy Communion. In it Christ is made real to us in bread and wine and we receive God's immeasurable grace. To help foster an appreciation of its sanctity, invite your child to follow along, including mimicking the celebrant's hand movements. (\*See the back for more information.)
- If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

*\*In Holy Communion, Christ is made real to us in the bread and wine, which: 1) affirms and strengthens our relationship with Christ which began at baptism; 2) points forward to God's dream and our destiny— wholeness and eternal union with God; 3) recalls and celebrates Christ's sacrifice of love and; 4) calls us to offer ourselves to God in return.*

### TO ALL WORSHIPPERS

The presence of children is a gift to our church and a reminder that God's kingdom is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents. Let them know they are home.

