



We're so excited to have our elementary children in worship for the next 5 weeks so that families may *Worship Together*. Our desire is that worshipping together will be a positive, memorable experience for everyone that extends well past the next few weeks.

### **Why Worship Together?**

Worshipping in community is one of the basic ways children learn how to worship with the congregation. The elementary-aged child brings a greater capacity for attentive listening to the corporate worship experience. In addition:

- They learn that they belong to Christ and are welcome in the church.
- They observe adults they love worshipping and often try to emulate what they see.
- They build memorable, shared experiences of Christian community from which they may draw when they are older.
- They begin to see Christian worship as a place where God may speak to them.
- They witness and are able to take part in Communion and Baptism.

### **Children's Worship Bags & Worship Bulletins**

For all worship services, there will be a table set up where children can pick up Worship Bags (with crayons and a pencil) and a Children's Worship Bulletin. Please return the Worship Bags to the table immediately after the service.

### **ABC's for Parents and Other Adults**

Arrive in time to find a comfortable place to sit.

Bring something for younger children to hold or look at – children's worship bags are available outside of the Worship Center and the Sanctuary.

Contribute visibly in worship by singing, praying, and responding. You are a role model.

Here are some other helpful tips for helping your child participate in the worship service:

- Discuss worship at home to help prepare the children for what they might see, hear, and experience. Be ready to answer questions they might have.
- Before the service each week, ask your child for something that answers the questions, "What do you learn about God?" and "What do you learn about how God wants us to act?"
- Make sure that your child gets a good night's rest and has breakfast. This will help them to be more attentive.
- Before the service begins, take a few minutes with your child to look over the order of worship in the bulletin. Comment on one or two things – unfamiliar or difficult terms, what the child should do at certain times, why an item is included, what meaning an item has for you, etc.
- During the time when participants are invited to greet one another, introduce your child to the people you greet.
- Expect your children to be wiggly. That is okay! Use a gentle touch – like an arm around your child's shoulder – to give reassurance and appropriate attention.