

*Instrumental Music—“What does this music make you think of? It sounds like rainbows playing chase to me!”

*Responding with Tithes, Offerings, and Commitment—“We give to God in many ways. One way we can give is with money. Some people are walking down front and giving money to help the church help others know about God. You can do that, too! Do you want to draw a special picture to give?”

6. Benediction

What are the closing words said nearly every Sunday at HBC? When the worship service is a time children know they are loved, they are learning to know God.



Sitting beside you on the pew is the handiwork of God.
And God, who began a good work in them, promised to bring them to maturity in Christ in the perfection of time.

Philippians 1:6

Books for children:

A Church for All by Gayle E. Pitman
This is the Church by Sarah Raymond Cunningham
A Children's Guide to Worship by Ruth L. Boling

Books for adults:

Let the Children Worship by Jason Helopoulos
Parenting in the Pew: guiding your children into the joy of worship by Robbie F. Castleman
Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home (activities for worship) by Traci Smith



*I jumped for joy when
they said to me,
“Let's go to the house of
the Lord.”
Psalm 122:1*

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

A. GETTING STARTED:

1. What is your goal for today?

2. If you attended worship services in church as a child, what are your memories of it? What would you want to keep the same/change?

3. WHAT IS “WORSHIP?”

Suggestion: Worship is _____

B. MEMORIZE THIS:

- No judgment.
- Each child is different; each adult is different; each family is different; each week is different; any given moment is different.
- We are in this together.

C. THE IMPORTANT THING:

What do I want for my child when he/she attends a worship service?

Suggestion: I want my child to feel _____ while

How can my child best experience my love and God's love while we worship together?

Possibilities and Practicalities

1. Sunday morning begins on Saturday night.

Whoever wrote "Easy Like Sunday Morning" obviously never had to get children ready for church. (seen on Facebook)

2. Keep Sundays joyful and simple.

3. Worship is active. Worship is respectful.

Our job as a Helping Adult is _____

4. Let the children know ahead of time what behaviors will be encouraged or discouraged by you during the worship service.

5. Prepare and Practice.

The _____ is your helper and guide.
What's this part of the service called? Why do we do it? Who's leading it? Here's what I like to do during this part of the service. Here's what you can do!

**Opening Song— "When Dr. Fetterman plays a song on the piano, it means the service is beginning. During this time I like to say, 'Good morning, God. I am here!' What does the music make you think about?"*

**Welcome and Announcements— "[] is going to tell us about things that will be happening soon at church. Let me know if you hear something you want to do."*

**Hymn— "Pastor Allen will lead us in singing a song. Here are some words you'll hear in this song. I'll nudge you when it's time for those words." "What instruments are being played during this song?"*

**Children's Message— "Pastor Laurel will have something special to show you. I wonder what we are going to learn about God today?"*

**Scripture Reading— "Pastor David is going to read to us from the Bible. We learn a lot about God in the Bible. I'm going to listen to see if I hear him say 'God' when he reads. Will you nudge me if you hear it?"*

**Sermon— "Pastor David is going to talk to us about God and help us think about how God wants us to live. I like to listen to this part because it's important to me to learn about God. You can draw a picture of a story you hear Pastor David tell. You can whisper questions to me."*

**Choir— "Do you see anyone you know in the choir? I'm going to listen for the word 'love.' Squeeze my hand if you hear it."*

**Prayer— "Do you like to close your eyes while we talk to God? I do, because that helps me to give my thoughts to God instead of thinking about things I see around me."*

**The Lord's Prayer— "We say this every week, don't we? Do you want me to whisper the first words to you—or you can whisper them to me!"*