



*God's Kids
in
Worship*



Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church
1329 Seventh Avenue
San Francisco, CA
(415) 664-2543

A guide for parents and the congregation when children are in worship at Seventh Avenue Church.



To the Congregation

During the Sacrament of Baptism the congregation says yes to each child. This yes is an affirmation that they belong, that they are welcome, and that we are glad they are a part of our community. This is very true for us here at Seventh Avenue.

Any way we can help children feel at home is important. Here are a few ways we can do this:

During the Passing of the Peace, greet children, as well as their parent/s.

Hand the offering plate to children, not over their heads.

Invite a child with whom you are acquainted to sit with you during liturgy on occasion - after checking it out with his/her parent/s beforehand.

Ensure that children have a liturgy/bulletin of their own.

When children are visible in leadership, respond to them as worship leaders, not as performers.

When there is A Conversation with the Children, laugh with the children, and not at them.

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



To the Parents

Feel free to sit anywhere. Children who can see will feel more part of what is happening. With this said, we are aware that some parents are more comfortable sitting in the pew under the balcony. Under the very back pew you will find coloring supplies, books, and stuffed animals in baskets available for children during the service. Basically, wherever you are the most comfortable is the right place.

Introduce your children to people sitting alongside you.

Go over the printed liturgy with the children to identify what will be taking place: hymns, other readings, and scripture.

Share the hymnal and bulletin with your child/children in whatever way makes the most sense for you.

Children learn worship etiquette by participation. Feel free to whisper to children to teach.

Children are welcome to receive and participate in communion.

Encourage your kids to participate in the worship service by teaching them the responses and prayers and allowing them to give an offering during that time of the service.

Before worship (maybe on the way to church) talk about what people or events need our prayers and might be included in the Prayers of the People. Going over the response: God in your grace; You Hear our Prayers.

Worship folders (liturgies) are for children too. They will receive one at the beginning of the service. The bulletin is theirs to draw and sketch on.

Talk about worship at home during the week.

Since it is hard for some children to sit still for long, allow them to sit or kneel on the floor and use the pew as a desk if necessary. They are always welcome to play in the space under the balcony.