



THE RHYTHM OF OUR WORSHIP for Christ Church NYC Parents & Kids



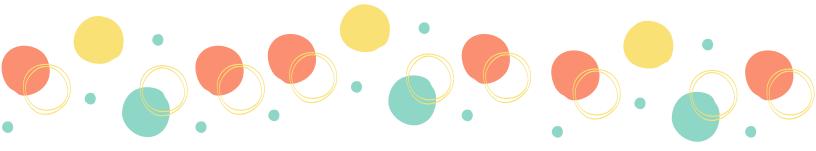
"And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the Lord: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the Lord, "from this time forth and forevermore."

-Isaiah 59:21

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO HELPING THEIR CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN OUR CHURCH'S WORSHIP GATHERING

FALL 2019





At CCNYC we are grateful to be a multi-generational church. We aim at nothing less than the fulfillment of God's promise that his Spirit which is upon us, and his words that he has put in our mouths, will be in the mouths of our offspring and their offspring after them, from now to eternity (Isaiah 59:21).

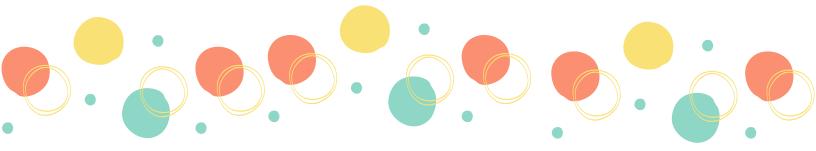
As such, we love the children in our church, we consider them to be a blessing from God, and we want to help them share and delight in the life of God's people — including when we assemble together for worship.

There are several ways your children might connect with the church's worship gathering.

- Children of all ages are welcome to remain with their parents for the whole of the worship service.
- Alternatively, during the school year children are welcome to participate downstairs in Children's and Youth Worship where there is singing, activities, and Bible teaching which is aimed at helping children to know God's grace and love in Jesus.
 - For children ages 0–2, there is a nursery downstairs. Parents can check their children into the nursery before the service and pick them up afterwards.
 - For our children from PreK-4th grade (CCNYC Kids), they begin worshiping upstairs and are dismissed for Children's Worship during the Passing of the Peace.
 - Upper School is a class for those in 5th-8th grade. They too begin worshiping upstairs and are dismissed during the Passing of the Peace every Sunday except the 3rd Sunday of the month. On the 3rd Sunday of the month, this age group remains upstairs for the whole of the service.

- As a parent you are welcome to take advantage of these different opportunities for CCNYC Kids and Upper School. You are also welcome to combine these different opportunities. For example, in order to help begin teaching and showing your children the importance of worshiping with the rest of the church and learning to hear God's Word preached, consider having your young children sit with you for the whole of the service once or twice a month. And/or you might consider occasionally bringing them back upstairs with you after the sermon.
- We are happily persuaded that older-aged youth from 9th-12th grade ought to weekly join the rest of the congregation in corporate worship, so they can (among other things):
 - Benefit from the wisdom of multiple generations;
 - Observe their parents and/or other godly saints worshipping and sitting under God's Word preached;
 - Begin to develop a taste for expositional preaching, so by the time they are leaving the home and perhaps looking for a church of their own, they will know what to look for.





Whether you decide to keep your children in for the whole or only part of the service, here are a few suggestions for how you might go about helping them participate in the rhythm of our worship.

- Begin by reading through the fuller The Rhythm of Our Worship – A Guide for Worship at CCNYC. This will help you to personally better understand what worship is and why we do what we do here at CCNYC. The better you understand it and live it out, the more equipped you will be to guide your children in their worship. (Available on the Welcome Table.)
- Another resource that you might find helpful is the excellent short article by John and Noël Piper, *The* Family Together in God's Presence. (You can find this on the Welcome Table in the back of the sanctuary or on our website.)
- Make use of the *Kid's Worship Guide*, as well as the *Sermon Notes for Youth*. These are available every week. Just ask the Greeters for one!
- Talk with your children about worship during the week. Help them to understand why we do what we do when we gather for worship.
- Encourage them to sing, profess, and listen with the rest of the church, as well to stand and sit when others do.
- Make sure you, too, are worshiping. Sing the hymns, pray, voice the confessions and professions, and actively listen and respond to the sermon. Children will learn what it means to participate in corporate worship by copying you. More is caught than taught.

- Look for ways to connect the church's rhythm of worship with your own family's devotional practices at home. The more that practices like Bible reading, singing, and confession permeate your own household in a gospel-shaped and gospel-centered way, the more readily you and your family will be to engage with the church when it gathers together for worship. (For ideas on how to do this, check out our bookracks downstairs which have excellent resources for Family Worship.)
- Give particular attention to helping your children listen to God's Word being preached:
 - Read and discuss the passage together several times at home during the week leading up to the sermon. In fact, consider making Sunday's preaching passage your family's devotional reading for the week.
 - Give your child one or two questions that you want them to try and answer as they listen to the sermon.
 - Make sure you discuss the sermon together at some point after church that Sunday.
 - For more ideas, check out the book from Christopher Ash, *Listen Up! A Practical Guide to Listening to Sermons*. This is usually available on our bookrack downstairs.







- Make sure you and your family get plenty of sleep the night before. Tired bodies make for drowsy hearts (and impatient parents!).
- Be intentional about what you do as you get ready for church on Sunday morning. Make sure you leave yourself plenty of time to arrive early for church so that you are not rushing in. Just as important, check your own heart and seek to begin the day with a joyful and expectant attitude for the ways God will be at work in you and your family as you gather with God's people.
- Above all, pray. Pray for your children and pray with your children before you come to church. Ask God to prepare each of your hearts, to give each of you a humble and joyful spirit, and then thank him for the privilege of being able to gather with his people in worship.
- Finally, relax! Children are naturally wiggly! Perhaps sit near the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what is going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads. Quietly explain the parts of the service, and feel free to whisper answers to their questions in the sermon. However, please do be mindful of others, and if you have to leave the service with your child, please feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."
- If you're reading all this and you don't have children, thanks for taking the time to do so! You can be a wonderful encouragement to the parents in our church by remembering that the presence of children is a gift to the church, and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing. So please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

If you have any questions about this article, please reach out to Keith Paulus or email keith@christchurchnyc.com

