

The Feast of the Ascension

Worship Aid for May 12th, 2024 at 10:15 am



Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

Nativity: an inclusive faith community, following the way of Jesus to nourish the body, mind, and spirit of the people of our south metro communities and beyond.

Nativity Episcopal Church is committed to practice the way of love. We follow Jesus' example of radical hospitality as we celebrate God's presence in all people.

We welcome all persons, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic or marital status. All are invited as full participants in the life and ministries of our community.

You may reach the office at Nativity@NativityMN.org or 952-435-8687

Nativity Episcopal Church Leadership
 The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, Bishop of Minnesota
 The Rev. Dana Fath Strande, Rector
 The Rev. Jay Phelan, Associate Priest
 The Rev. Kathleen K. Brusco, Assisting Priest
 The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
 Katie Voegele, Parish Office Coordinator
 Clayton Heidbreder, Music Minister
 Charlotte McLendon, Organist
 Natalie Watters, Family Ministry

Tamera Loerzel, Senior Warden
 Andrea Thermos, Junior Warden
 Steve Grier, Treasurer

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 nativitymn.org; 952-435-8687
 Office email: nativity@nativitymn.org

Leading Today's Worship
 Presider: The Rev. Dana Fath Strande
 Preacher: The Rev. Diane Luther
 Deacon: The Rev. Diane Luther
 Lector:
 Prayer Leader:
 Eucharistic Minister: Marguerite Kirchhoff
 Ushers:

Next Week: May 19th (Pentecost)

Lector	Tamera Loerzel
Prayer Leader	
Eucharistic Minister	Phyllis Rowley
Usher (x2)	

ASCENSION

The Feast of the Ascension occurs 40 days after Easter. According to the biblical narrative, Jesus appeared to his disciples for 40 days after his resurrection, eating with them, teaching and encouraging them. Then, while he was blessing them, he disappeared from their sight and was carried up into heaven (see Luke 24:49-53 and Acts 1:8-11). Following Jesus's instructions, the disciples returned to Jerusalem and waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The Ascension is a core event in Jesus's life and ministry, and a central tenet of the Christian faith. In our creeds we affirm "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father." But modern scientific understanding makes it difficult to believe in a literal ascension. Bishop John Shelby Spong points out, "If Jesus ascended physically into the sky, and if he rose as rapidly as the speed of light (186,000 miles per second), he would not yet have reached the edges of our own galaxy" (Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism, by John Shelby Spong, p.31). Our faith rests not on a literal interpretation, but on the belief that Jesus was no longer bound to space and time, but lives eternally in the mystery that is the heavenly realm.

The Ascension sets the stage for the birth of the Church, and establishes the need for those who follow Jesus to become his Body on earth. The coming of the Holy Spirit, which we will celebrate next week on Pentecost Sunday, empowers Christ-followers to truly be his Body and carry on his work and ministry.

AND WE ARE STILL IN THE EASTER SEASON!

OPENING HYMN

Emmanuel! The Angels' Ancient Chorus

1 Em - man - u - el! The an - gels' an - cient cho - rus
 2 Em - man - u - el! He laid a - side his splen - dor,
 3 Em - man - u - el! This Je - sus, meek and low - ly,
 4 Em - man - u - el! Our God in us is dwell - ing,

to - day un - folds be - fore us, the fi - nal tri - umph starts.
 and par - a - dise sur - ren - dered that we might be set free.
 has made us sin - ners ho - ly, by his al - might - y blood.
 our God, with - in us, tell - ing that he has come to save.

Em - man - u - el! With - in that name a trea - sure,
 Em - man - u - el! He ris - es now vic - to - rious,
 Em - man - u - el! For - give - ness has been spo - ken,
 Em - man - u - el! The an - gels sing their sto - ry,

an - nounc - ing God's good plea - sure to dwell with - in our hearts.
 to live for - ev - er glo - rious, and reign e - ter - nal - ly.
 the king - dom now is o - pen, and we be - hold our God!
 of Christ, our hope of glo - ry, the King is ris'n to - day!

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

GLORIA

(Hymnal S278)



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -



might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,

on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

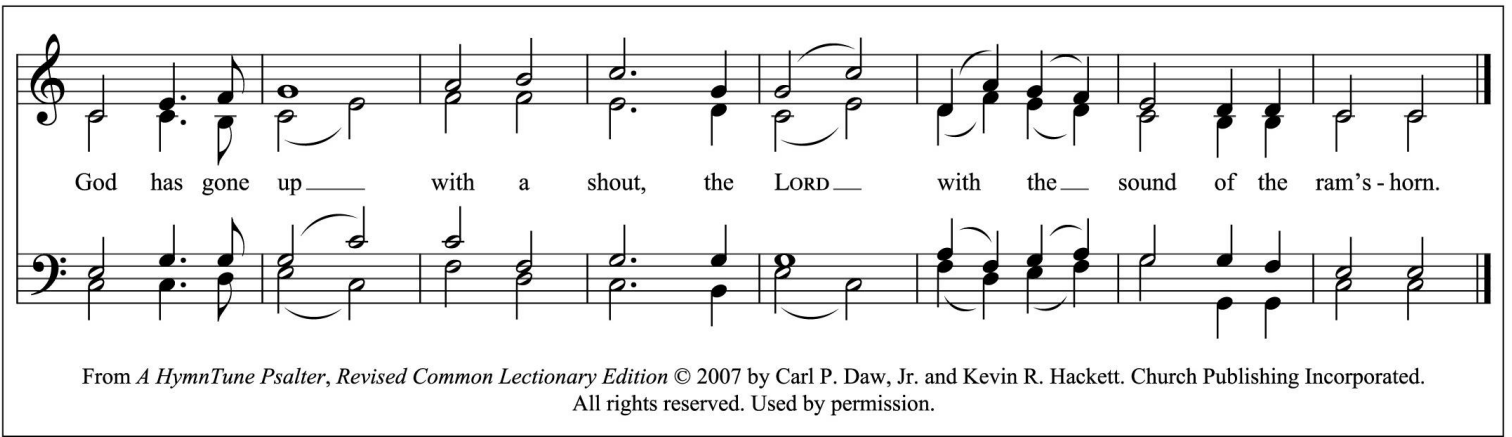
Acts 1:1-11

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 47

Antiphon:



God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.

From *A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition* © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; *
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared; *
he is the great King over all the earth. *[Antiphon]*
- 3 He subdues the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *[Antiphon]*
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, *
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; *
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is King of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill. *[Antiphon]*
- 8 God reigns over the nations; *
God sits upon his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together *
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, *
and he is highly exalted. *[Antiphon]*

THE SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

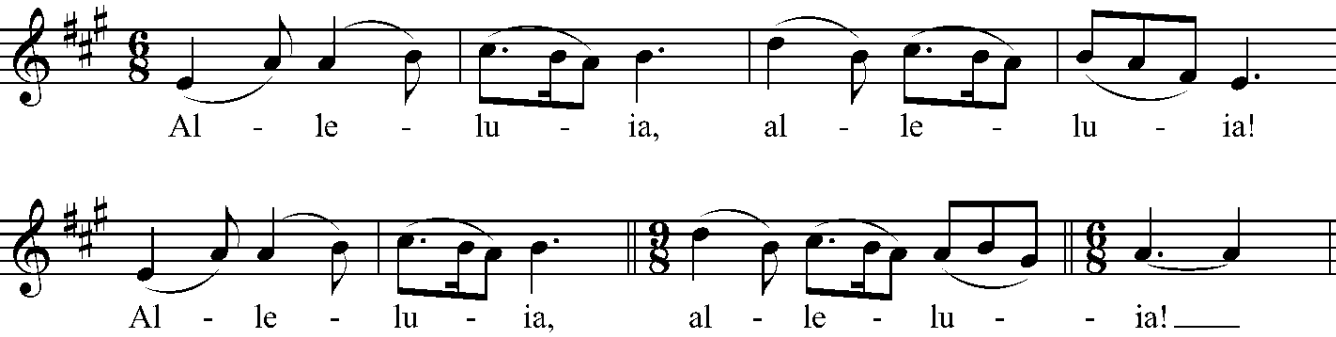
Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

Sing before and after the Gospel.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! ____

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Celtic Alleluia. The first staff is in 6/8 time and the second staff is in 9/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Words and Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker (b.1947) © 1985 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213 [www.ocp.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel is read.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE TIME

All children and youth are invited to go with a Children & Youth ministry volunteer during the sermon and prayers.

SERMON

The Rev. Diane Luther

NICENE CREED

Presider: Let us declare our faith in God.

Presider and All:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son,
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Easter Season Prayers were written by Nativity's Youth Confirmation Class.

Deacon: Filled with the joy of the Easter Season, we offer prayers to God who raised Christ from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell among us.

Silence may be kept.

Leader: We pray for the Church throughout the world. We pray for the Anglican Church of Canada. We pray for Michael Curry our Presiding Bishop and for our Bishop of Minnesota, Craig Loya. We pray La Mission el Santo Nino is St Paul and for all churches like Nativity that are engaging in Faithful Innovation.

God of Love,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We are thankful for all of creation, Mother Nature and all of her many wonders. Let us protect her as we protect the lives of others.

God of Abundance,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We ask for your guidance as we continue to go about Building our Future. May we listen closely for the Spirit's direction and respond to your will with faithfulness.

God of Hope,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are unwell: mentally, emotionally, or physically. Bring them your peace and healing.

We especially pray for...

Are there others?

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: God of Healing,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are dying. May they be assured their lives were well lived and be comforted at their holy hour.

[We pray especially for...]

Are there others?

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: God of compassion,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those who have died and gone before us. May they be greeted by your angels and led into the Holy City of Eternal Life.

We pray especially for...

Are there others?

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: God of our faith,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: O Lord, Our God, Jesus appeared to the disciples and said, "Peace be with you." Grant us your peace. Stir our hearts' trust of your resurrection and inspire us to bring peace to others.

All: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OR ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR A BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

The Presider invites the gifts of the congregation, with these or other words

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," arr. Sandra Eithun*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory.

Presider: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (Hymnal S128)

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Presider: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Presider: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Presider: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Presider: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: **AMEN**

Presider: And now, as our Savior, Christ, has taught us, we are bold to say;

Presider and All:

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

***All:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

FRACTION ANTHEM

(See Next Page)

INVITATION

Presider: So come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the people of God.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es! All our
Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -

hearts are filled with glad - ness! Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your
bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa

prai - ses! All our hearts are filled with glad - ness!
ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. **Fine**

Christ the Lord to us said: "I am wine, I am bread, I am

wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger!"

Words: South African. Music: *Halleluya! Pelo tso rona*, South African.

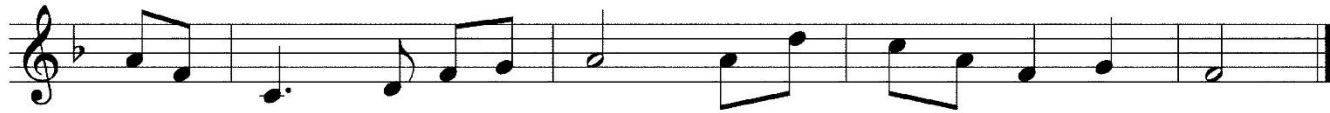
COMMUNION HYMN

I Received the Living God

Refrain



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

Verses



- | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|----|----|-----|--------|------------|
| 1. Je - sus | said: | "I | am | the | Bread | Knead - ed |
| 2. Je - sus | said: | "I | am | the | Way, | And my |
| 3. Je - sus | said: | "I | am | the | Truth; | If you |
| 4. Je - sus | said: | "I | am | the | Life | Far from |



long to give you life;	You who will	par - take of
Fa - ther longs for you;	So I come	to bring you
fol - low close to me,	You will know	me in your
whom no thing can grow,	But re - ceive	this liv - ing



D.C.

me	Need not	ev - er	fear	to	die."
home	To be	one with	him	a	- new."
heart,	And my	word shall	make	you	free."
bread,	And my	Spir - it	you	shall	know."

Text: Anonymous
Tune: LIVING GOD, 7 7 7 7 with refrain; Anonymous; harm. by Richard Proulx, b.1937

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and All:

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;

you have united us with Christ and one another;

and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,

that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.

Amen.

BLESSING

Presider: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

All: **Amen.**

Presider: May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Presider: May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

All: **Amen.**

Presider: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

All: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns (Hymnal 494)

Descant

5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned a - bove;

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; Hark!
 2 Crown him the Son of God be - fore the worlds be - gan, and
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, and
 4 Crown him of lords the Lord, who o - ver all doth reign, who
 5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned in worlds a - bove; Crown

crowns him to whom is given the won - drous name of Love.

1 how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own; a -
 2 ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man; who
 3 rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save; his
 4 once on earth, the in - car - nate Word, for ran - somed sin - ners slain, now
 5 him the King, to whom is given the won - drous name of Love. Crown

Crown him with man-y crowns, as thrones be-fore him

1 wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
 2 ev - ery grief hath known that wrings the hu-man breast, and
 3 glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high, who
 4 lives in realms of light, where saints with an - gels sing their
 5 him with man - y crowns, as thrones be-fore him fall, crown

fall, crown him, ye kings, for he is King of all.

1 hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 2 takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.
 3 died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 4 songs be - fore him day and night, their God, Re - deem - er, King.
 5 him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, for he is King of all.

Words: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894). Music: *Diademata*, George Job Elvey (1816-1893); desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).
 Descant, Copyright © 1970, Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

UPCOMING

Pentecost

May 19 – Wear reds and yellows!

Graduation Recognition Sunday

11:15am – May 26

WEEKLY AT NATIVITY

Community Café

5-6pm – Wednesdays

Bible Study

10:30am – Mondays

Children's Worship and Response

During Sermon and Prayers

