

Welcoming Children in Worship: The *PrayGround*

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At St. John's, we believe that children are integral members of the body of Christ and that learning how to worship is similar to learning how to swim—you've got to get into the water! We want young children to know how to worship by giving them space to observe, participate, and experience worship.

The **PrayGround**, located in the front of the Nave at the 9:00 am "family" service (or 10:00 am worship during the summer), provides an area for our youngest members to play quietly while also being a part of the worship service. The first pew is designated for families, so they can support their children using the PrayGround.

Additionally, during our 9:00 am service, our youngest parishioners are invited to process to their own sacred space for about 20 minutes during the sermon to engage in a developmentally appropriate **Liturgy of God's Word** to complement, not replace, our 10:00 am **Godly Play** Church School hour. And our **nursery** downstairs remains an important option for families of children under 6 during our 9:00 am service. With a number of spaces and activities designed for children to experience and participate in worship according to their needs, we trust families to work out the best options for them and their children on any given day.

Our PrayGround is an expression of St. John's worship culture and desire to heed Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me." We hope, too, that the PrayGround serves as a visual reminder every time we gather that children are a vital part of our radically welcoming community here at St. John's.

