

# CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

## An Order of Service

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### Opening Collect

God who is love; we pray in thanksgiving for the ways you nurture us. We pray for children everywhere, and for the grown-ups who care for them. That they, with open hearts, continue to look, listen and feel for ways to grow, learn, share and give. **Amen.**

### Homily

Jesus began his ministry after he was baptized by John in the River Jordan, and that's when our ministry begins too. When we're baptized, we are made ready to serve God. Even if we are just babies, our baptism makes us part of God's family and turns us into his helpers.

When we're baptized, the people who love us make promises with us and for us to do the work that Jesus taught people to do. We promise to respect and love our neighbors, to follow Jesus and to help those in need. These are important and serious promises, but God gives us people to help us keep the promises.

Today we're going to think about neighbors that we will probably never meet but are part of God's big family. Children around the world want to grow up healthy and strong and their families love them just like your family loves you. But not everyone has the things they need to grow up healthy and strong, and that's when we can help be good neighbors.

Children and grown-ups need healthy food and people to love. We all need someone to listen to us and someone to play with. We need music and laughter, friends and hugs and prayers. Most of us have the things we need, and there are people who work to help everyone have the things they need. These helpers go around the world to be teachers and friends to families who want to learn about growing up safe and strong. We can help too by praying for children and families who are missing the things they need.

Praying is a good way to be a helper, and a good way to keep your promise to God. You can also tell your friends that you are praying for children and families who need help. You can be thankful for all the things that you have and learn about how people around the world grow and learn in different ways.

Our church, and other churches like ours, are helpers too. We send money and prayers to Episcopal Relief & Development's ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign. This way we can share with families who are learning to grow and be healthy. The people who work for Episcopal Relief & Development want us to all work together to better know our neighbors.

We are all part of God's big family. Be thankful for neighbors we haven't ever met, who live far away, but who know that we care about them.

## Simplified Creed

Storyteller: This is what we believe.

All: **We believe in one God who made us and all things.  
We believe in Jesus, the only son of God, who saves us.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us grow to be like Jesus.**

## Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the life of the world...

For our loved ones ... those whom we know and hold in our hearts, and all of your children across the world. Bond us in your love. God of love, **Receive our prayer.**

For those who teach us... our teachers at school and church, our parents and family at home, and in all places we learn. Help us to listen with patience as we grow. God our teacher, **Receive our prayer.**

For those who lead us... give the leaders of our nations, towns and communities wisdom to serve people in love and peace. Give us all the language to share your love in the world. God who guides us, **Receive our prayer.**

For the sick and poor... We pray for access that meets the needs of those who do not have enough. For nutritious food, housing, loving relationships and all of the things that help us to thrive. God of the vulnerable, **Receive our prayer.**

For ourselves... Thanksgiving for playing with friends and grown-ups, for music that moves us and all of the good things you bless us with. Inspire us to respond to the needs of our neighbors as you have taught us. God who walks with us, **Receive our prayer.**

## Confession

Storyteller: We are sorry for the things that we've done wrong and for the things we should have done but didn't. We will try our best to love you and follow you.

All: **Amen**

Storyteller: God loves us and forgives us and helps us.

**Concluding Collect:** God we thank you for always being with us. Open and transform our hearts that we might connect more deeply with the needs of others and be moved to be your love and care in the world. Help us to keep courage as we learn, share, and give. **Amen.**

## Closing Song

### Suggested Playlist

What the World Needs Now (is Love)  
Happy by Pharrell Williams  
Can't Stop This Feeling Trolls Movie  
Count on Me Bruno Mars  
What a Wonderful World Louis Armstrong  
Lean on Me Bill Withers  
Best Day of My Life American Authors  
Bear Necessities from Disney's Jungle Book

### Suggested Hymns

Sweet, Sweet Spirit  
This Little Light of Mine  
We are Marching in the Light of God  
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus  
Morning has Broken  
This is the Day  
I've Got Peace Like a River  
Let There be Peace on Earth (and Let it Begin with Me)