

Children's Message

11.16.08

Good morning.

Today we are going to start talking about the different things that make up one of our worship services. You probably figured out by now that there is a reason for each part in our worship service- but maybe you don't *why* we do each thing or how we are supposed to *act* during that part of the service.

I guess the most important thing to tell you is we have a job during a worship service. We are not an audience; we are active participators in a worship service. God is our audience. Our ministers, the choir and even I help you to worship. Think of a worship service like a football game- we are the players on the field, the ministers and the choir are the coaches and God...well God is up there in the stands cheering us on.

So- the service starts with the **Prelude**- that's the music that usually, but not always, is played on the organ when we enter the sanctuary. But how should we act during the prelude? Well, this is the time in the service when we try to find a quiet peace inside ourselves and ready ourselves to worship. Imagine you are walking up the front sidewalk to a friend's house. There is a birthday banner across the front door and balloons attached to the mailbox. These are the signals that you are about to go to a wonderful birthday party. These things get you ready! The prelude is very much like that. Not a banner and balloons, but a signal that a wonderful thing is about to happen.

During the prelude, our acolytes light the candles. The lights that the acolytes bring in, symbolize the light of Christ coming into our worship service. And they light 2 candles on the communion table- representing the fact that Jesus is both man and God.

Next we have the **Call to Worship**. The Call to Worship is a call from God. It is when the congregation is greeted by the pastor and we are invited to begin worshipping. If it was that same birthday party, it would be when your friend opens the door and says, "Come in! I'm so glad you are here!" During this time- what should we be doing? Our eyes should be on our pastor and we should be listening to that welcome.

Now let's think about the **Processional Hymn**. Maybe you have wondered why we have the choir process (or come into) the sanctuary. This processional symbolizes *all of us* coming into the presence of the Lord. Only a few people process, but they do it for *all* of us. What should *we* be doing during the Processional hymn? Well, singing along with the choir, of course!

Next is the **Prayer of Confession**. In our church we often read this prayer together. We know we are not perfect, and God knows that, too. During our Prayer of Confession we ask for God's forgiveness. This is our way of being honest with God. Of course God knows when we have done something wrong, but when we confess to God, we are showing that our wrong thing won't stand in the way of our friendship with God.

After the Prayer of Confession, we have the **Words of Assurance**. That's when we hear that everything is still okay- we are assured by our ministers that because we say we are sorry to God, we hear the good news that God forgives us for everything.

Next is the **Anthem**. Today our Angel and Crusader Choirs lead us in worship by singing the Anthem. Music is an essential part of all of our worship services. Music allows us to deepen our worship experience- our job during an anthem is to listen carefully to the words and music- sometimes the words are straight from the bible, sometimes they are the way a writer has interpreted the Bible, sometimes they are about the way that people feel because of God's presence in their lives. But how should we act after the anthem? Maybe a choir member can answer that one- what are we supposed to listen for after we sing? That's right- if we are very quiet- we will hear God clapping for us- remember that God is our audience- all of the rest of us are those players on the field, worshipping to please God.

Now, that brings us to the **Children's Message**- truly one of the highlights of the worship service- right?

Reverend Wiley, will you please lead us in prayer?