

Children's Message
5.21.06
Sixth Sunday of Easter
(Confirmation Sunday)

Today is the day when our ninth graders are going through The Rite of Confirmation. I have an easy question for you- now I know that it is an easy question because I've asked you the question before and...I've already told you the answer! What does CONFIRMATION mean?

Okay- I'll tell you: Confirmation- Welcoming a baptized person to full membership in a church.

These people are going to become members of our church today. But, you know, being a member of a church isn't like being a member of a swim team, or being a member of cub scouts or being a member of a country club. Being a member of a church means that you are joining the family of Christ.

So why do we do this? Why do we bring our Confirmands forward during this service? We do this to convey the presence of God to the Confirmands. Now, this isn't saying that God's presence was not there before this service, it is more a symbol of the presence of God and a chance for the Confirmands to acknowledge God's presence.

I think it's interesting that the word for becoming a full member of a church is Confirmation. If you think of the ways that we confirm things in our lives- like when your Dad says "I love you." Then you answer back "I love you, too." Those words- "I love you"- aren't anything new- you aren't saying anything that he doesn't know. You are just confirming those feelings you have for him with your words. That's a lot like what will happen today.

Today, our Confirmands will accept the vows that their parents made for them when they were baptized. Their parents said that they would raise them in a Christian home and that they accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. Our Confirmands are going to do the same thing today: they are going to accept Christ as their Savior and become a full member of the family of Christ. They are going to confirm with words, what already is.

Reverend Wiley, will you please lead us in a prayer?