

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Why celebrate a separate Liturgy of the Word for the children?

"A child will be born in the family of Jesse.
This child will be filled with the Spirit of God,
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of strength and truth,
The spirit of knowledge and love of God.
The one who is coming will not judge
By what others say or by what people look like
But will judge the poor with justice and fairness.
Then the wolf will live with the lamb.
The leopard and the goat will eat together.
The bear and the lion will be at peace,
And a little child will lead them all.
This child will be a sign for all the world.
Then no one will hurt others anymore
Because everyone will know God."

Isaiah 11:1-10



"So often—too often—we parents and parish leaders forget that children already enjoy a spiritual life—not without the influences of socialization but also not without its own mysterious and original power. Although well-intentioned, we approach children as if their souls were some kind of empty container, give by God for us to fill with the truths of faith and certain moral codes to guide their behavior. This is not to say that we have nothing to teach children. The point is: we sometimes get in our own way—and in God's way. Jesus did not tell us to teach children to be like us: rather, Jesus told us adults that it is we who have something to learn from children."

"When we can recognize and acknowledge, as Jesus did, the unique expression of God's presence in children, then we can celebrate the work in a way that is meaningful to them and respectful of their spirituality."

"If we humble ourselves enough to let the child, of whom Isaiah so eloquently spoke, lead us, then we just may be in for a wonderful surprise. We may find through our children what we thought they would find through us."

Excerpts from *A Child Shall Lead Them*

by: Gerard A Pottenbaum
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"The way Joshua taught, the children listened, because it touched their lives. Joshua knew that children hurt just as much as adults, and if religion is to make sense to children, it has to deal with their very real troubles and concerns, not grown-ups' concerns."

Joshua And The Children

by: Father Joseph F Girzone