

The Week of the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, August 14, 2022

Scripture: Matthew 19:13-15

One of the most special moments I have experienced at church was during a week of vacation Bible school for children. My son had attended with some of his friends from preschool and church. The children spent most of the day split up into different age groups rotating through different activities. However, the beginning and end of each day was spent as one, with the many children from all age groups together in the nave. It was during this time that they practiced and sang a song. By the end of the week the children had really mastered the song. Listening to the children singing all together was very moving for me. So, when asked to pick a scripture or story that has been important to me, I think of this experience at church and of this:

*Matthew 19: 13-15. Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and to pray for them, but the disciples scolded the people. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." He placed his hands on them and then went away.*

At our church we have many activities for children. We have regular Sunday School activities, a children's choir, and some evening activities for children or families. Children are also welcome during church on Sunday. Some Sundays the pastor holds a children's sermon. We also run a preschool at our church. We have colorful classrooms in the church and a small playground outside. I think it is so important that our church is a place where children can come to feel safe and loved by their community and by God.

Prayer: Almighty God, with a mother's love and a father's care you have blessed us with the joy and responsibility of children. As we bring them up, give us gracious love, calm strength, and patient wisdom, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen

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