

**The Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island
Sunday, September 5, 2021
15th Sunday After Pentecost
10:00 AM**

***Become like a child...a child of God.
Back to School Blessings***



ANNE ROONEY PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL
To Serve God by Serving God's Children

Each Fall children, youth, young adults, and education leaders return to classrooms or other learning environments. And this year, in particular, will be different for many as they return to in-person learning after more than a year of on-line or hybrid school experiences. As a congregation, we acknowledge all of our students and teachers today in worship and pray especially for our Anne Rooney Presbyterian Preschool. We know God created us to learn and explore and create. We also follow Jesus, the great teacher.

Printed words to music and prayers are to use as silent meditation during the service.

“Gathering in God’s presence...

Ring of the Hour

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Laura Donnelly

Prelude

*Jesus Loves the Little Children
Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world;
Every color, every race,
They are covered by His grace,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

Call to Worship (Psalm 19, Prov 1, Isaiah 50)

Opening Prayer

Instrumental Hymn*These Treasured Children*

Puer Nobis Nacitur

*These treasured children present now are bound to us by sacred vow:
with love, we make a heartfelt claim to welcome them in Jesus' name.*

*Our ancient story we shall tell, till these our children know it well
within their souls and minds and hearts, for this is where their journey starts.*

*We long to trust as children do and so entrust our days to you;
In their young lives we clearly see a lesson in humility.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, help us be a nurturing community;
empower us to realize God's kingdom through our children's eyes.*

*Then, tender God, each child embrace; God give them blessings, grant them grace.
Surprise them, God, with wonders still, and gently guide them to your will.*

Silent Prayer of Confession

Servant God, humble our hearts and quiet our minds, that we may reflect your servant heart in everything we do and say. Call us back to service and love, even when our focus is lost. Remind us to be childlike in faith and to be faithful as your children. Cover us with your grace and unify us in your peace, that we may embrace your wisdom from above and your humility from below. In your mercy and grace, we pray. Amen.

Musical Response*Come and Fill Our Hearts*

Confitemini Domino

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!*

Repeat

Assurance of Pardon

In God's mercy and grace, we are again claimed as God's children and called into God's service. Hear and believe in the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Musical Response*We Are Forgiven*

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

(After the musical response, all children are invited to come forward for a time together. If they have brought their backpacks, they can bring them up too!)

Time with Children

Backpack Blessings!

Musical Response*Jesus Loves Me*

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Read: Matthew 18:1-7

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² He called a child, whom he put among them, ³ and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

⁶ "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes! Amen.

Reflection

Learning from a Little One

Rev. Ashley Sanders

Our Response

Prayers of the People

Sharing of Tithes & Offerings

Kindly place your offering in one of the baskets as you leave the service. Or, consider online giving by going to our website (www.pcedisto.org) and clicking "Give Online" or text the amount you'd like to give to 833-458-3379, click the link they send you, and fill out the information requested. This is a safe and secure way to give your tithe or offering to the church.

Musical Response

Give Thanks

Give Thanks

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.*

*And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!"*

*And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks.*

Prayer of Dedication

Virtual Preschool Tour

Today, you are invited to take a virtual tour of the Anne Rooney Preschool. Looking at the rooms, imagine the space full of young learners, and say a silent prayer for all our teachers and students. Our teachers are here today and available after the service to answer any questions you might have about the Anne Rooney Presbyterian Preschool and how you can be involved.

Benediction

Postlude

He's Got the Whole World

...sending in God's name."

Leading Worship:
Liturgy – Laura Donnelly
Vocals – Ross Sanders
Violin – Jordan Mae and Judson Bazzle
Music Director – Sheri Melton
Pastor – Ashley Sanders

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