



UMW Sunday *The Christchild Within*

Litany of Response—*A Blessing for Children, II*

(See bulletin insert on next page.)

Scripture Selections

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Matthew 19:14

"... Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'"

Hymn Selections

From the "Of Faith We Sing" Hymnal

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying - Hymn #2193

Star Child - Hymn #2095

From the United Methodist Hymnal

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus - Hymn #277

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands - Hymn #273

UMW Purpose - Recite in Unison

Sermon Suggestion

Something about Children

Could be accompanied by a Powerpoint presentation featuring photos of various children in the congregation (have families submit photos and / or get signed permission from parents/guardians to use photos during the service). Photos of children from around the globe can be found on the United Methodist Church News Website: http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.2161675/k.57F7/Photo_Gallery_Search.htm.

Benediction

Jesus Loves Me - Hymn 191 from the United Methodist Hymnal

LITANY OF RESPONSE

A Blessing for Children, II

- Right** God bless our little people,
the tots and teen and "in-betweens,"
chubby, thin and short and tall
with smiling faces rainbow-hued,
God bless them one and all!
- Left** God bless the little ones,
with crews and dreds and waves and braids
And bows or pom-poms in their hair;
A jumble of tiny human themes,
From here and there and everywhere.
- Right** God, answer all their little voices,
timid, haughty, loud and naughty
who laugh and sigh or scream and cry;
Their many sounds a grand cacophony,
Always asking, "Tell me why!"
- Left** God bless the ones who have so much
but even more the ones who don't;
Those who nibble, those who stuff,
Those who just refuse to eat;
and those for whom there's not enough.
- Right** God, help the children that we know
and those we've never seen;
God, listen to their dreams and cares –
The ones who wake us up and those
who live on only in our prayers.

Left God, love the happy ones who thrive,
with blessings all around,
and those who wonder all alone –
the proud and angry, lost and lonely
God claim each one for your own!

Right God, comfort those who fear the dark
and hide behind our knees,
and those whose cries we cannot hear
-victims of an imperfect world-
God, help their sorrows disappear!

Left God, shine your light on funny tykes,
and those who never laugh or talk;
The ones who run and fight or fall
and those who cannot see or walk.
God, build your spirit in them all!

Right God bless and keep all little hearts,
Who know the beauty, feel the joy.
God, keep them straight and strong and whole;

All And help us to know that the child out there
-no matter who, no matter where-
Is the same Christ-child within our soul!

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