

How to use these prayers:

The two pages should be printed out back-to-back and cut up into sixteen cards, each with words on one side and an image on the other. There are two sets of images but only one set of words – you may choose to use both sets if you have a group of more than sixteen people worshipping together.

Sit around a central table. On the table should be a cross and a number of nightlights corresponding to the number of cards you use.

Spread the cards out on the table with the picture side up – ask each person present to select a card which appeals to them. Some people may need to select more than one so that all the pictures are taken.

Say together the first part of the Children's Day Prayer by Sarah Weaver (below)

Taking it in turns around the table, people turn their cards over. They read the words in black type from their card. This is one of the articles from the convention. After a short pause, they read the words in red, EITHER reading them as written but preceded by the words "we pray for..." or "we remember..." OR saying a short extemporaneous prayer using the red words as a guide.

Then they light a candle and place it at the foot of the cross.

If two people have the same card because there are more than sixteen people participating, one should read the black print and the other should read the red.

When everyone has read their card and lit a candle, say together:

Jesus says, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me" (Matt 18: 5)

The close with the second part of the Children's Day Prayer by Sarah Weaver

Children's Day Prayer Sarah Weaver (C) 2013

- 1) O God, who is parent to us all.
We welcome you into this space
where you can see the majestic work of your creation.
Through our worship today,
see that we are heeding Christ's call
to let the children come to us ...
to invite all into the priesthood of all believers ...
and to be the Body of Christ.

- 2) As we celebrate children and young people
we know that we are truly celebrating our whole church family
our commitment to one another
our love for one another
and our compassion for the world outside of our walls.
Be with us as we acknowledge our covenant together.
and recommit our lives and our ministries to you.
Give us strength, O God.
With your creating, redeeming and sustaining grace,
Fill our whole lives with your presence.
Amen.