Black History & The Children

The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity
Black History Month 2021

Worship Outline

CALL TO WORSHIP
The Lord our God is great.
The Lord is worthy of our praise.
Come, let us remember the great things God has done for us.
Let us not neglect to teach our children the greatness of God.
Let us not forget our past and those who have gone before us.
We remember our ancestors, our history, and we name our future.
Let us lift up our voices in song, lift our arms in praise,
and open our hearts in gratitude.
Let us greet God with our songs of praise.

SONG: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING
Popularly known as the Black National Anthem, frequently sung in African American schools, churches, and during special events, Lift Every Voice and Sing w/Kirk Franklin.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER (in unison)
Almighty God, we come to worship you today with open hearts and open minds. We want to hear and receive what you have to say to us in this meeting. Speak to us today as you spoke to those who went before us. Tell us the stories of your wonders and greatness. We are ready to hear them. Remind us once again of your grace and love. Help us teach your goodness to our children and the next generation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Psalm 78:1-11, II Chronicles 7:14, or Deuteronomy 6:4-12
Psalm 78:1-11 focuses on children with special exhortations on the instruction of children.
Deuteronomy 6:4-12 can also be used for this purpose.

SERMON
"God's Family & God's Promise"

A LITANY FOR BLESSING OUR CHILDREN
(Children come forward and stand at the altar; parents and other adults surround them)

Leader:
Running, jumping, falling, laughing, singing, dancing, climbing… our children are our joy.

All:
Today, we are all children, gathered to praise and worship you, loving God.

Leader:
Rolling, smiling, hugging, shouting, crying, cheering, painting, toddling, drawing… our children are our joy.

All:
Today, we are all children of God, gathered to bless our children.

Leader:

Short and tall, thin and thick, dark and light, bright and full of smiles, changing and growing… our children are our joy.

All:
Today, we pause to let them know how much we love them. We pause to remind ourselves of our promises to them: to guard, guide, and defend them; to protect them from dangers seen and unseen; to live holy lives in front of them; to never stop trying to be spiritually alive soldiers of the corps and ambassadors for Christ everywhere we go.

Leader:
Let us all pray together…
Loving God, bless us that we may be a blessing to our children. Help us remember who we are and from where we have come. Help us remember the things you have done for us in the past so we can teach them to our children. May we give them hope and enthusiasm for the future. May we give them openness to your holy message of forgiveness, grace, and love. May they too want to walk in the paths of righteousness. May your word live in them and for generations to come. Hear this prayer we offer today. Amen.

★This service, originally designed for Juneteenth has been adapted and modified. The complete service can be found at https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/juneteenth-day-worship-resources.