

Children's Sunday Reflection, June 6, 2021

<Sarah>

We thought this Children's Sunday, we'd offer a sermon for our children and youth.

It's been an extraordinary year - and we are so proud of all of you. You have made it through a year and a half of virtual school, virtual church, virtual Sunday School, hybrid school, and all the rest. Here's something we know. *You did it. You can do what comes next.*

We sure do hope that as more people get vaccinated and case counts go down and down, we'll be able to do things in person more and more.

We have some things we want to make sure you hear - no matter what kind of year it has been. In fact, we hope you hear these things from your church every single year, and take them with you all your life. So, here goes:

<Reebee>

You are beautiful. Really: You are marvelous and lovely and wonderful, just as you are. And do you know why? You are made in God's image.

You are loved. You are God's beloved child. God loves you always and forever and forever and always. And, we love you. Pilgrim Church, and every person here, loves you and always will. When you go through confirmation, when you get ready for high school, when you move away from home, Pilgrim Church, and every person here, will keep on loving you.



You are important. Your wellness is really important to us, so speak up if you need us. And you are our leaders: when you need something, it becomes our priority. We've got your back.

You are good. It says so right in the Bible. God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. – Genesis 1.

You belong to God, and God will be there for you always. Even when life gets tough or confusing, God is right there with you.

<Sarah>

And here are some of the things we hope for you:

We hope for you to be safe, loved, and filled with wonder. May you always know love, and never fear, for God is with you always. May you always know happiness and find God's strength and beauty in everything, for God surrounds you, and touches everything you see.

We hope for you to be kind, respectful, grateful, gentle, and just. May you always show care to others, and compassion to those in need of grace and support. May you stand up bravely for others when they need a voice, and listen intently to those who struggle to be heard.

We hope for you to know, and follow Jesus, who taught us how to be kind and gentle and just, and gave us these greatest commandments:

To Love God,

And to love our neighbors as ourselves.

<Reebee>

Now, we want to pray for each one of you today. So listen for your name:

Today, God, we pray

For Deven and Neil and Aiden

For Lily and Juliette

For Julia and Eleanor and Madeleine

For Acadia and Luca

For Zac

For Mairi and Calum

For Tara and Molly

For Sydney and Isabella

For Alice and Carrie

And for every beloved child of this congregation.

Bless them today and always.

Amen.