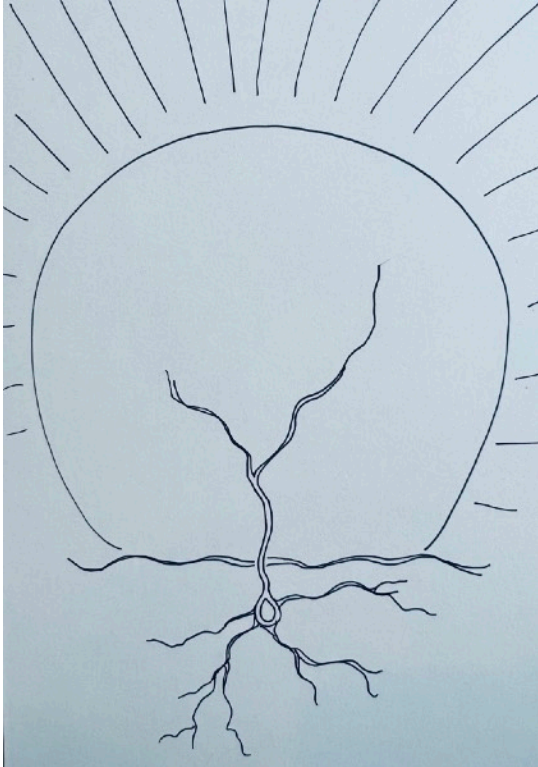


Children's Ministry Update

From Children's Pastor Stephanie Booth



It is tempting for us as humans to decide ahead of time what goodness looks like, what things would have to be present, what things would need to be absent.

The years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 have been missing things we would usually depend on to bring goodness, and have brought things we would normally think should be absent for goodness to grow. No one wants the distance that a pandemic brings, the sacrifices we make as people, as parents, as caregivers, as the body of Christ.

BUT

My heart has been so deeply encouraged by the ways that Jesus has shown up anyways. Like a defiant plant in the middle of the winter, like those first leaves of Spring. Our Jesus, our Prince of Wholeness is not constrained by any earthly thing.

Throughout 2021 I have seen life in our ministry with children. It was my joy to spend the first half of the year providing online stories and Sunday afternoon storytime on

Zoom. Over the past 8 months, it has also been my joy to spend time each Sunday with both parents and children celebrating the stories of Jesus together in our in person Children's Worship.

It has been exciting to see the kids engage in the new rhythms we are making, and to see parents join right in the worship with them. To have people eager to serve and teach. From acting out stories to learning how to make space for God in our hearts with breath prayers, worship is HAPPENING both online and in person with our children every week.

I am grateful for the parents who tune into the Sunday morning service with their kids, the parents who watch storytime videos each week with their little ones, and for the parents who have come downstairs and joined in person worship with their children. Jesus is here, and He is good.

I offer here a prayer of gratitude for each family, each child, for the loving community at Redeemer, as well as a prayer of blessing over this new year, for creativity and inspiration for our ministry with children. Be with us Good Shepherd, in all of your goodness and glory.

In Joy and Thanksgiving,

Pastor Steph