

## **"I am God's Child"**

September 15, 2013

Matthew 19:13-15

*<sup>13</sup> Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people; <sup>14</sup> but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." <sup>15</sup> And he laid his hands on them and went away.*

I would like to preface the below "Sermon". My computer died on me this week in the midst of editing my sermon and before I had backed it up. So, I scrambled a bit Sunday morning to recall the outline and thought process I had while writing it. What is below here is not my sermon in its entirety, that was very much spirit led on this particular Sunday. What is below is some of what those in Church heard and others of it were forgotten as the Spirit moved me to speak and proclaim the Good News. This Sunday was our Worship and Wonder Commissioning and Graduation Sunday. With that in mind I will say that the two things I paid particular attention to on this Sunday were the importance of Children in our church's and that we no matter how old we are we will always be God's children. ~Rev. Kara

Throughout scripture, we hear a lot about Children. We hear often how we as God's Children have so many opportunities to be part of the body of believers. Today we have witnessed one part of that journey with our Worship and Wonder Graduation and Commissioning. It is not often that churches have such a welcome and willingness to allow children to be a part of worship and a part of the life of the church. Too often children are not given enough credit for their knowledge and their faith understanding. Too often churches regulate them to not being important enough to really matter until they are older.

It is a failing in some ways of the Disciples of Christ. I believe it has come about as a church because we believe in Believer's Baptism and we wait to get baptized until we can truly understand our faith. Well, this is a struggle for myself because we can not judge one another's faith very well can we? I remember my baptism...

Yet I also remember the overwhelming feeling of accomplishment and welcome I had stepped forward and was now a true member and yet I was 10, my voice was not acknowledged and I distinctly remember being told that I was still a Child in the faith.

Jesus here in this scripture disabuses those preconceived notions

He calls the children too him, he reveres them and he challenges us in so many ways to be like them.

It is something I am in particular awareness of with my own girls. You are getting to hear a bit more about me today and my faith journey. But I know how much my journey changed when I held Sophia for the first time. When she was dedicated. When I see her interaction on the bible stories and

songs she is learning about Jesus, when she shows Gwen how to hold hands at the dinner table to pray. When Gwen giggles all the time as we sing Jesus Loves Me.

You know it and I know, Jesus Loves us, the Bible here in this scripture from matthew tells us so. But it is hard to reconcile that understanding as a Church. We too often get like the disciples were and live under the adage that Children should be seen and not heard. We forget what we learn as Children follows us into adult hood.

We have to have children welcomed and loved from all ages from 0-99, because remember we are all God's Children. Perhaps though we need a reminder of that fact. We all started out as small and even as we grow we continue to be Children to the Father.

So I want you all to join me in this reminder of our faith as God's Children. I AM GOD'S CHILD: I am God's child! I am God's child! And I know I am loved because I am God's child!