

## Saplings & Sassafras Story & Worship Liturgy

*[Children get carpet squares and make a circle; children are encouraged to share a square. Leader sits with back back to the altar.]*

*Leader: [Picks up candle] Who can raise their hand and tell me what this is called? [Kids shout out answers.]*

*Leader: That's right, it's the Christ Candle. Why do we light the Christ Candle? [Kids shout out answers]*

*Leader: That's right, we light the Christ Candle to remember that Jesus is with us. Okay, do we need to practice this? [After the first few weeks, kids usually say no]*

*Leader: [While lighting the candle] The Light of Christ.*

*Kids: Thanks be to God!*

*Leader: Okay, let's sing hello.*

*Sing hello to [name], to [name], to [name]. Sing hello to [name]. God loves you. [Repeat until all names are sung. If you run out of names before the end, replace [names] with Everyone.]*

*Leader: Now, let's get the wiggles out. Wiggle out to the side [stick out arms and shake them]. Wiggle up high [shake arms above head]. Wiggle out to the side [stick arms out and shake them]. Bring them together [clap hands above head]. And bring them down to our laps [bring them down to your lap]. Good morning God, this is your day, I am your child, show me your way. Amen*

*Leader: [Tell the story, usually involving questions for the kids.]*

*[After story, transition to songs, usually two or three. After singing, everyone sits down. Leader calls each child by name, holds their hands, makes eye contact and gives them the following blessing]:*

*[Name], Jesus knows you and loves you.*

*[When there is a cross hanging on the wall, leader invites them to touch the cross, then they put away their carpet square, and go back to the tables].*