

A Liturgy for Youth Sunday
February 16, 2014
Dusty Shull

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us worship with one voice. To our Deliverer, our Father, our Creator, our Redeemer;

People: Our Bright and Morning Star, our Almighty, the Rock of My Salvation;

Leader: To our Holy One, our High Tower, our Refuge, our Strength;

People: Our Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End, our Spirit, our Counselor, our Potter.

All: We are your children, O God. Mighty Maker, we are here to worship you as one church, one voice, one heart. Amen.

Call to Confession

There are so many differences in our lives that have the power to separate us one from another. Our age, our race, our lot in life, our health, our clothes, our political preferences, all have the power to divide. Let us cast aside our differences and pray for unity and peace today, asking forgiveness for when we've separated ourselves not only from each other, but from God above.

Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord, we ask forgiveness today for not seeing each other as you do: as your children, as your chosen people, as your beloved. Forgive us for our impatience, our intolerance, our anger, our jealousies, and help us to unite as we are all called by you. We ask that you take away our dark thoughts and callus actions so we can fully stand in your presence and be in awe of you. You are our maker, O God, mold us as you will. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Through God's great mercy, we are pardoned from what we deserve and through God's everlasting grace, we are given abundant forgiveness and blessing and peace we do not deserve. Through Jesus' tortured trip to Calvary and his rising from the dead, we can forever commune with the one, true Holy God. We are free to worship God as one body, as one voice, one heart, one people. Our God will neither forsake nor forget us. Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Because of who you are, you have never left us, God, nor will you ever depart from us. We pause now to clear our minds and ask that your words invade our hearts. Focus us. Fill us. Help us to forget ourselves for a moment, an hour, a week, a lifetime and hear only the proof of your love and your promises. Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

1 Timothy 4:12

John 6:1-14

Jeremiah 29:11

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Prayers of the People

Lord, we humbly thank you for all our many blessings:

big ones, small ones, ones we can't even yet see or describe.

Today we see so much hurting throughout our congregation and throughout our world, and we ask that your presence be revealed at this time.

Help us to care for others in this world and to pay careful attention to all your flock— young, old, sick or healthy—

to care for the church of God, which Jesus secured with his death on the cross.

We thank you, Father, for your providence and help and love. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

As Paul told Timothy, let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Let us all set an example today as we search our hearts to offer our gifts to our God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Giving God, it was just a boy who offered up five loaves of barley bread and two fishes, and Lord, you fed 5,000 hungry souls. Take our small offering here in this place and multiply it in a way where all those who gave it today and all those who will be blessed by it tomorrow, can see your glory. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May the grace and mercy of our heavenly Father touch you today. Go forward from this place and take the light of Christ with you to your home, to your school, to your work, to your friends, to your family. Feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your lives forever. Amen.