

A Liturgy for Youth Sunday
February 15, 2015
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Call to Worship

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord of high and low.

People: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord of heaven and earth.

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord of all.

People: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord of all.

Leader: Let all praise the name of the Lord, for God created it all.

People: Praise the Lord of all depths, of all elements.

Leader: Praise the Lord of all nature and its residents.

People: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

All: Let all praise the name of the Lord! Praise the Lord!

—Adapted from Psalm 148 NRSV

Call to Confession

Though God broke down the dividing walls between us, we who claim that freedom have chosen to rebuild those walls brick by brick. Now let us together claim the bricks we lay.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: The wall of us and them

People: Brick by brick

Leader: The wall of liberal and conservative

People: Brick by brick

Leader: The wall of race and class

People: Brick by brick

Leader: The wall of young and old

People: Brick by brick

Leader: The wall of men and women

People: Brick by brick

Leader: The wall of rich and poor

People: Brick by brick

Leader: God we raise up the walls you tore down.

All: Brick by brick

Leader: We pray God for you to tear them down again.

All: Brick by brick by brick

Assurance of Pardon

Hear this assurance: It wasn't so long ago that we were stuck in our life of sin. But now, we are immense in mercy and with an incredible love. God took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in

Christ. The Messiah tore down the walls that separate and brought us together through his death on the cross.

—Adapted from *Ephesians 2 The Message*

Prayer for Illumination

On this Youth Sunday, God, we ask you to open up our hearts and minds to hear your voice in the voices of our youth. To hear you teach your wisdom, expound your grace and preach your hope and love. In Jesus name, Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

- Ephesians 2:11-22
- 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Prayers of the People

Lord, today, we have praised your name. We've reminded ourselves of our brokenness, confessed and been assured of your love and grace.

Ask the people to stand and connect. They can connect by holding hands, linking arms, etc.

Now God we ask you to remind us we are connected. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. Remind us that our connections run deeper than just (*holding hands, linking arms, etc*). And we are not just connected with the people in this room. So, we come to you now and pray,

We pray for our planet. Help us to love and care for this world you created. To not plunder its resources and take it for granted. Help us to find alternative ways of living that reverse the harm to our world. Remind us that the act of loving our planet is the act of loving you.

We pray for our enemies. Soften our heart towards people who have and might try to harm us. Forgive us of our hatred for them. Remind us that in loving our enemies, we are loving you.

We pray for our community. May your Holy Spirit come and bring us together. Help us to see where the needs are and how we can help. Build in us resolve to fight for justice. Remind us that in loving our neighbor, we are loving you.

We pray for one another. We ask that you help us be a light in one another's darkness. To help us support one another in humility and kindness. Bind us together through your love and mercy. Help us to see one another with your same heart and mind. Remind us that by loving one another, we are loving you.

We pray for ourselves. We plead that you remind us that you love each of us deeply and completely. That nothing can separate us from your love. Bring rest to our worry and anxiety.

Bring relief from our stress. Bring hope to our despair. Bring healing to our ailments. Bring wholeness to our brokenness.

Remind us that in loving ourselves, we are loving you.

Let us pray together the prayer that you taught your disciples to pray saying,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

When people speak of worship we typically get a picture of prayers, music and sermons but rarely do we picture the offering. Yet an offering is an act of worship. It's an act of humble devotion. It's an act of trust and obedience. So, let us worship God by giving to God our tithes and offerings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We worship you God through our words and actions. We worship you by singing and praying. We worship you by speaking and listening and now God we worship you through receiving and giving—receiving your call that we cannot serve both you and money. So we freely give in worship to you and proclaim through everything, we serve you. Amen.

Charge

Remember that God does not judge one on their outward appearance but their heart. Let us be people of the heart this week: to not see “us” and “them,” but live together in harmony and togetherness. To unite as one body in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Benediction

Now may the Lord keep you and bless you.

May God's face shine upon you and show you peace.

This day and all the days of your life. Amen.