

Youth Ministry Sunday 2019

Children and Youth Ministry Sunday, as we celebrate the gifts of children and youth at work in our parishes and in our Diocese, is a perfect opportunity to explore new liturgies.

Contemporary language is very engaging and appealing to many children and youth, connecting them to their faith in an unexpected way! And for all of us, seeing the familiar written in other language can awaken our hearts in a new way. **Please pick and choose from the following; taking what will work best for your own community.** However you choose to celebrate Children and Youth Ministry Sunday in your parish, we encourage you to involve the youth and children of your community as much as possible in the planning and the service. We would love to have a copy of your Children and Youth Ministry Sunday bulletin! Please take pictures and send them to Sarah Bird so that she can share your experiences across the Diocese. If you would like to enliven children and youth ministry in your parish or you would like parishioners to hear about diocesan children and youth ministry programs, please invite Sarah Bird to preach as part of this celebration.

How to Involve Children and Youth in a Service:

- Children handing out the bulletins.
- Children and or youth bake the bread for Eucharist.
- Involve children and youth in the choir.
- Teach the children and youth about the altar guild, help with arranging flowers. Craft flowers or butterflies for the altar.
- Children gather around the gospel reading, ask a child to hold the gospel for the person who reads it, have children and or youth act out the gospel.
- Bring up the gifts.
- Ushers for communion.
- Have them be the readers.
- The prayers of the people: Create a simplistic but meaningful version for younger children to read or help them to write their own.
- Gather around the alter, hold hands and say the Lord's Prayer
- Children's Reflection/homily.
- Use percussion instruments for hymns or sung prayers (create your own shakers).
- Helpers during coffee hour.

Children and Youth Ministry Sunday – Diversity and Inclusion

Call to Worship

One: In Christ we are a new humanity - no longer strangers - but members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone.

All: **We rejoice that Jesus holds us together - reconciling us to God and to one another.**

Opening Prayer

One: Eternal God, we give thanks that Jesus links us with you and with one another through his life changing love and risen life. We are here praising you today for these gifts of love - gifts which inspire us to reach out to others with similar love. As people so lovingly brought together who were formerly alienated from each other and from you, fill us with the desire to break down barriers which exist between people and you. As you welcome us, who once were strangers, as friends, may we continue to make this church a hospitable place where strangers can become friends. May we always give thanks for the great gift of faith in you, O God. As you reached out to us in Christ, and transformed our lives, so may that transformation be visible through the way we share our faith and welcome strangers into this community. Amen

Suggested Readings

Ephesians 2:13-22

Romans 14:1-9

Psalm 67

Luke 10:25-37

Sermon

Many parishes ask a young person or persons to address the congregation; this might take the form of a talk, a PowerPoint presentation, a piece of music or a dramatic interpretation. If you would like a past participant or a volunteer staff member of a diocesan Children and Youth Ministry program to speak at your parish, please contact Sarah Bird.

Affirmation of Faith

One: Together we affirm our faith,

All: **We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God;
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our redeemer and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People

(Many parishes ask the youth group or a youth to write and/or deliver the prayers of the people. Some suggestions for inclusion – the graduates of the Youth Leadership Development Program, the staff and participants of the Niagara Youth Conference, the staff and participants of Camp Canterbury Hills, and the children, youth and family participants in programs of your parish)

If your youth are reluctant to write their own, they might be interested in using the following taken from The Book of Uncommon Prayer; Contemplative and Celebratory Prayers and Worship Services for Youth Ministry. This simple yet effective prayer could be led by one youth or by alternating voices.

One: Jesus said to go into all the world
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: Into the big cities and small towns
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: The farms and mountains
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: The shelters and homes
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: Jesus said, "Feed the hungry."
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: Shelter the homeless
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: Heal the sick
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: Visit the imprisoned.
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: And ask for nothing in return.
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: Expect nothing in return.
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: Love without expectation.
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: Love without strings attached.
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: It won't be easy.
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: Some people are hard to love.
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: It's hard to help those
who won't help themselves.
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: He loves for no other reason than to love.
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

One: We will do the same.
All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

Prayer Over the Gifts

One: God of welcome,
your son, Jesus Christ,
draws all people together in community.
Accept all we offer as we accept all
who gather at this table in his name.

All: **Amen**

Eucharistic Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your heart.
All: **We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

All: Let us rejoice in our God.

Youth: Why do we give thanks and celebrate at this table?

All: We give thanks for all that God does for us.

One: God created the heavens, the earth, and everything
in them, and created people in his image.

All: Let us give thanks and celebrate God's love

One: Jesus, God's son, became human like us, lived among us,
died for God's kingdom, and defeated death.

All: Let us give thanks and celebrate God's love

One: God sent the Holy Spirit to gather us, all of us,
together as the people of God.

All: Let us give thanks and celebrate God's love

One: And so we join together to worship God who loves us, singing (saying)

All: Holy, holy, holy...

Celebrant: In Jerusalem, Jesus gathered the disciples,
and gave us this holy meal to share,
telling us to continue it until he comes again.

Youth: Why do we eat bread together at this table?

Celebrant: On the night before he died, Jesus took bread
and gave you thanks, broke it and shared it,
saying; "This is my body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me"

Youth: Why do we drink from the cup together at this table?

Celebrant: In the same way after supper, Jesus took a cup of wine,
blessed it, gave it to them and said
"This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"

Youth: What do we remember at this table?

Celebrant: We remember God's grace-filled love for us,
Jesus' transforming way of living,
and the Spirit's movement in our lives.
Let us celebrate the mystery of faith;

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: Loving God, pour out your Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
In eating and drinking together,
may we become both sign
and promise of your Kingdom

Prayer after communion

One: Loving God,
Your universe is filled with infinite variety and movement.
Move in us that we draw ever closer
and welcome all who seek your presence.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessing

One: As we go from this place,
may we be
full of desire and wonder,
full of grace and welcome,
and full of the courage to love.

Resources:

Call to worship and Opening prayer adapted from "Liturgies Online" Moira Laidlaw of the
Uniting Church in Australia www.liturgiesonline.com.au

Prayers of the People from The Book of Uncommon Prayer: Contemplative and Celebratory
Prayers and Services for Youth Ministry, by Steven L. Case, Youth Specialties, 2002

Eucharistic Prayer adapted from liturgical resources of the Anglican Church of South Africa
found at www.anglicanchurhessa.org