

Youth Ministry Sunday 2015 Resources

About Youth Ministry Sunday

Youth Ministry Sunday celebrates the many expressions of youth ministry in our parishes and in our diocese. We suggest observing it on Sunday June 7, but it can be observed at any time that makes sense for your community. The celebration allows us also to thank the parishes and volunteers who support youth ministry at the diocesan level. Each year, our Diocesan Youth Ministry programs touch over 200 youth in all six of our regions. Youth Ministry in Niagara is a vital, exciting movement that continues to evolve!

Suggestions for Using this Resource

In our diocese, worship and ministry vary greatly from one parish to the next. We hope that this resource will offer you a variety of ways in which you can incorporate the celebration of Youth Ministry Sunday into your community life in a way that fits for your unique expression of our Anglican tradition.

In keeping with the celebratory nature of Youth Ministry Sunday, we hope you'll be intentional about creating just such a mood for your Sunday worship. Engage all the senses in your celebration — colourful fabrics to engage your eyes, freshly baked bread to enliven your noses, baptismal water to refresh your foreheads, lively music to animate your spirit, flavour-filled food to get your taste buds dancing and send you on our way! The possibilities are endless; go ahead and play!

Cut and paste and adapt – and if you need more ideas, contact us! The Bishop of Niagara has approved all of the materials in this resource booklet for use as part of Youth Ministry celebrations in the diocese. Whatever you choose to do, we hope you'll offer the youth connected to your parish opportunities to actively participate in your planning and celebrations

Theme: Alone & Together

“We need both (alone and together) simultaneously or we will be in danger of either getting lost in the maze of the inner life within us or lost in the perplexity of the noisy crowd all around us. To have both enclosure and encounter provides the necessary checks and balances so we can have the best of both. As Parker Palmer observed “It’s like breathing in and breathing out – together they give life.””

Trevor Miller, Northumbria Community

“Solitude and Community belong together; each requires the other, as do the centre and circumference of a circle. Solitude without Community leads to loneliness and despair, but Community without solitude hurls us into a ‘void of words and feelings.’”

Henri Nouwen

Liturgical Resources

You will find in this resource:

- Collect
- Confession & Absolution
- Peace
- Affirmation of Faith
- Prayer After Communion
- Blessing
- Scripture Suggestion
- Children's Focus Idea
- Sermon Ideas

Collect

Loving God,

Who calls us to worship in community as the body of Christ, help us share and witness your love, grace and mercy as we gather and pray, alone and together; seeking you in all things, and in each other. Help us to meet you in our hearts, minds and souls. Make us ready to share your gifts with those whom we encounter here in our church community, and in the world.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

Confession & Absolution

One: God, we live in a world that needs to change;
a world in which we choose 'me' rather than 'we',
a world in which we do things that hurt others and hurt ourselves.

**All: Through our careless hands have slipped
opportunities not taken,
people not cared for,
community not nurtured,
days not celebrated.
We are sorry for the ways our brokenness injures the community
and ask for reassurance and forgiveness.**

One: God whose grace is generous beyond belief
forgives you for the ways in which you hurt others and yourself.
God whose love is unconditional beyond belief
invites you to live out the life you are called to
in the midst of supportive community.
Take up the freedom of God's love and embrace one another.

Peace

One: The peace of God be with you all.

All: In God's love is our peace.

One: Christ calls us to live in harmony with one another.

All: In Christ's way is our peace.

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the
Creator and giver of life,
who calls us to live together
in community and love as
respectful stewards;
to do justice, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with God.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
And seek a rhythm of life by his example
Therefore we believe that time is a gift,
to be received with gratitude
and to be given generously.

We believe in learning who
we are in ourselves, in order
to know whose we are in the world.

We believe that love is the fulfilment
of the Law; that we are blessed
to be in the world with others;
to love our neighbours as ourselves,
so we see God in the poor, oppressed,
condemned, and forgotten,
and embrace all people with
God's true compassion.

We believe that the Holy Spirit,
unites us in God's eternal journey
of love, frees us to serve,
and fills us to overflow with grace,
truth, beauty, and life as
God's children in this world.

We believe in the whole Body of Christ –
the church universal,
the whole community of faith.

We believe in God's messengers
in every form they come in
We believe in forgiveness –
that everything is redeemable.

We believe in the resurrection –
that life is unstoppable.

Adapted Affirmation of Faith from Grace – London

Prayer after Communion

God of might and mystery,
We thank you for this bread and wine, this food for our souls.
We thank you for this community of faith, for together we can serve others more faithfully
having received the body and blood of your Son, each one.
Alone and together, we remember the loving sacrifice of your Son.
May we all bless others, as we have been blessed, and seek your Kingdom eternally, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May you be blessed as you journey out of this place alone,
yet together as we continue to seek out honesty,
truth, and peace.

May you be blessed as you encounter friend and stranger,
desiring more than passing, desperately wanting to be seen,
yearning for a touch, a word, a presence.

May you be blessed as you authentically try to respond to the God-given wrenching of your gut, making you aware that a need is near and someone is waiting for your word, your presence.

May the blessing of a love that transcends indifference and brings reconciliation be in your heart and in your mind and in your hands as you travel to and fro - constantly aware that even now you are surrounded by love.

May you seek, may you be completed, and may you be blessed. Amen.

Adapted Blessing from Safe Space [Juli Allen] – Telford

Scripture Suggestion

- Mark 6 : 30-56

Children's Focus Ideas

- To reflect upon the importance of positive attitudes and outlook
<http://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/1193/a-bunch-of-bananas-a-bright-and-energetic-assembly>
- To explore the idea of community – belonging to a school/church, a family
<http://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/2024/belonging-to-a-community>
- To look at the good things about being alone, and how this enhances being with others
<http://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/171/alone-sometimes-i-want-to-be-on-my-own>

Sermon Ideas

- Alone and Together a Reflection from the Northumbria Community
<http://www.northumbriacommunity.org/community/alone-and-together/>