

Order of Worship for Youth Sunday

August 21, 2011

Lectionary Texts: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Isaiah 51:1-6; Matthew 16:13-20; Romans 12:1-8

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

Call to Worship

Paraphrase of Matthew 16:13-16

One: When Jesus joined them, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

Men: Some say John the Baptist;

Women: Others say Elijah;

Youth: Some say Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

One: "But what about you?" Jesus asked. Who do *you* say I am?"

All: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

One: Let us worship our risen, living Savior!

Sung Call to Worship

Come, Now is the Time to Worship! (Brian Doerksen)

Prayer of Adoration

Almighty and gracious God, it is a privilege to worship you this day in this community of saints. May our praise be joyful, may our hearts be turned toward you, and may our souls be quenched with the waters of your Word. We give you all glory and praise and gratitude this day and forever. Amen.

Opening Song

Choose one from the four suggestions below:

Here I Am To Worship (Tim Hughes); *Better is One Day* (Matt Redman); *Morning Has Broken* (Presbyterian Hymnal, page 469); *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* (Presbyterian Hymnal, page 288)

Call to Confession

Friends, if we say we have no sin, we are lying to ourselves and the truth is not in us. But, if we confess our sins, The Messiah promises to forgive us, cleanse us, and remember our sins no more. With humility and integrity, let us approach the throne of grace together.

Prayer of Confession

First allow time for silent prayer, and then read aloud together

Forgiving God, we give you thanks for your unconditional love and ask that you enable us to love each other unconditionally, too. Forgive us for not always answering when others ask, "Who do you say that I am?" Forgive us for ignoring those in our midst who are different from ourselves in age, race, gender, sexual orientation, education level, and economic status. Forgive us for the times we so easily conform to the language and actions of this world. Forgive us for taking the easy way out with texts, emails, or Facebook, instead of confronting each other face to face. Forgive us, God, and make us whole again. In the name of the One who came to save us, we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear and believe the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; our old lives are gone and our new lives have already begun. Know that we are all forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Sung Assurance of Pardon

Let the Redeemed of the Lord (Dan Schutte)

Time with Young Disciples

If your congregation does not typically have a children's sermon, consider inviting the young people of your church to lead one for the younger children, as they are the ones children often look up to as their older siblings and role models.

During the Time with Young Disciples, the youth leading it may focus on the Matthew text by asking the children the different names for Jesus in response to Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am." The leader may add names to the children's answers such as Prince of Peace, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Son of God, Christ, Lamb of God, Teacher, Friend, and the Good Shepherd. The youth leading it may close by emphasizing that Jesus shows us how much God loves us and how we should love and treat each other.

Sung Prayer of Illumination

Ancient Words (Michael W. Smith)

Old Testament Reading

Either Exodus or Isaiah Passage

New Testament Reading

Either Matthew or Romans

Passage

Homily

Sung Response to the Word

Sanctuary (John W. Thompson & Randy L. Scruggs)

This would be a wonderful opportunity for one/some of your young people to play/sing instead of the congregation singing to ensure their musical gifts are included and encouraged.

Affirmation of Faith

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

You may use this suggested affirmation of faith, the attached Vision For Youth in the Presbyterian Church (USA) or encourage your young people to write their own if they are comfortable doing so.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers

in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Prayers of the People

Encourage your young people to craft prayers of the people together as a group prior to this service to ensure the prayers are their own and reflect their prayers for your church, city, and the world. The prayers of the people may be lead by one young person or by a group- however they prefer to do so. They may end the prayers of the people by leading the congregation in The Lord's Prayer.

Offering

Offertory Music

Amazing Grace (Presbyterian Hymnal, page 280)

This would be a wonderful opportunity for one/some of your young people to play/sing instead of the congregation singing to ensure their musical gifts are included and encouraged.

Prayer of Dedication

Giver of all things, accept these gifts that we return to you, and use them to better your kingdom on earth. Enable us to see your gifts in each other and ourselves that we may share your gifts with the world. In the name of Christ, your greatest gift, we pray, Amen.

Hymn

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Presbyterian Hymnal, page 356)

Blessing & Sending

And, now may you go from this place in peace, knowing we are all new creations in Christ. May you go from this place in joy, knowing we are free to serve the kingdom of God and not conformities of the world. May you go from this place in love, reminded that nothing you have done or will ever do will ever separate you from the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Go out and serve God's people with energy and imagination! Amen.

Sung Blessing

Choose one from the four suggestions below:

Trees of the Field (Steffi Geiser Rubin & Stuart Dauermann); *Canticle of the Turning* (Rory Cooney); *Blessed Be* (Matt & Beth Redman) *Song of Hope* (Presbyterian Hymnal, page 432)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Bulletin Front Cover:

For the bulletin cover image, encourage your young people who are gifted artistically to design, paint, or sketch the design your youth group would like to have on the cover. This is a wonderful way to include young persons who are more comfortable creating an artistic element than writing or leading liturgy.

Scripture on front of bulletin: Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Bulletin Back Cover:

Be sure to include the names of all young people participating in the service and thank them for their leadership.

Author and Editor: The Reverend Ashley-Anne Masters.

Ashley-Anne Masters is a pastor, chaplain, writer and theologian in Chicago, IL. She is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and received her Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. She is co-author of "Bless Her Heart: Life as a Young Clergy Woman" and has published work in "These Days Devotional Guide" and online at Church Health Reader.

Currently, Ashley-Anne serves as a chaplain at Children's Memorial Hospital and is passionate about providing education and support to families during their hospital stay. She also serves as an event planner for various Presbyterian (USA) events and as Adjunct Staff in the Center for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at Montreat Conference Center.

A Vision for Young People and the Presbyterian Church USA)

In the midst of a beautiful and broken world, we have a vision for ministry with young people, that unites youth in Christ with all other generations and proclaims the love of God without end. This vision gives us hope for a Church that:

Is authentic, made up of communities of faith that live what they proclaim;

Participates in, and pays witness to, the lively, joyful reality of the grace of God for the whole world;

Helps young people to understand what it means to be saved by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that they will, as God does, view all people with love and possibility;

Expresses God's boundless love by embracing young people as they are, where they are, and where they could be, inspiring them to share their ideas, dreams and unique gifts with the world and the church;

Acknowledges and celebrates youth as the keepers of God's world, capable of serving as agents of healing, friends to the friendless, and leaders along the path of Jesus;

Encourages young people to live and lead with humility, but also with confidence and joy;

Accepts that it may be changed, even re-made, through the power of the Spirit and by youth's energy, freshness, and vitality.

