

Solid Rock Youth Service

Scripture: Psalm 18:1-6 | Matthew 7: 24-27

Theme: Solid Rock

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 95

One: Please join me in reading the Call to Worship responsively.

One: Come, let us sing to the Lord!

All: We make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

One: Come, let us enter the presence of God with thanksgiving!

All: We make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

One: Come, let us worship and bow down!

All: We make a joyful noise and kneel before our Maker! Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn

Suggestions (All from *Glory to God*):

#388 "Come All You People"

#390 "Praise, Praise, Praise"

#401 "Here in This Place"

Prayer of Praise

One: Please join me in the Prayer of Praise. Let us pray.

All: Holy God, you are our rock and our protector. Your strength and love shelter us wherever we go. You provide refuge for us in all of our challenges. We know we can always turn to you. You hear us when we call out to you. We love you and praise you for you are our eternal God: creator, redeemer, and sustainer. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Call to Confession

One: We know that God is our rock and never fails us. But even though we try our best, we often fail God and each other. Please join me as we confess our sins together. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

All: Forgiving God, we come to you know that we have missed the mark. We have not trusted you and your unfailing love for us. We forget to turn to you for help when we need it the most. We think we can do it by ourselves.

We have also let one another down. We have been selfish, ignoring the needs of others. We have been unkind, gossiping and tearing others down. We have been greedy; taking more than we need and not sharing with those who have less.

Gracious God, hear us as we pray together aloud, and as we pray our silent personal prayers of confession.

(Leader counts to fifteen before concluding.)

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Adapted from Psalm 103

One: God is compassionate and merciful, patient and full of love. God doesn't deal with us according to our sin or repay us for what we have done wrong. Because as high as heaven is from the earth, is how enormous is God's love for us. As far as the east is from the west, is how far God has taken our sin away from us. God's faithful love is from forever ago to forever from now for those who honor the Lord.

Friends, hear the Good News, In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace

One: With the knowledge that we are forgiven and beloved by God, let us now greet our neighbors and pass the Peace of Christ to one another.

The Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also, with you!

Response Hymn

Suggestions (All from *Glory to God*):
#581 "Glory Be to the Father" (Gloria Patri)

#583 “Glory to God”
#585 “Gloria a Dios! / Glory to God”
#591 “Halle Halle Hallelujah!”

Children’s Time

Consider reading one of the following books with the children and discussing how we can turn to God when we are afraid.

After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again by Dan Santat
Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall

Prayer for Illumination

One: Let us pray. Spirit of wisdom, come be with us now as we prepare to read scripture. Quiet our noisy minds and help us to slow down and pay attention. Open our eyes to your guidance, open our ears to your words, and open our hearts to the message you have for us today.

Optional Anthem

This could be a place to add a song offered by a youth choir, a youth ensemble, or a youth soloist.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 18:1-6

Gospel Reading

Matthew 7: 24-27

Sermon

Questions to consider for a sermon written by youth:

- When was a difficult time that you had to rely on God for strength and encouragement?
- Who is a person in your life that has helped you to remember God’s love and care for you? How did they show that to you?
- How does it feel to pray to God when you are going through a difficult time?
- How does it feel when your faith seems to be built on a rock/solid ground? How does it feel when your faith seems to be built on sand? What happens when difficult times come in both of those situations?
- What are the things that help you build your faith in God on a sturdier foundation? What prayers, practices, or people help you strengthen your trust in God?

Hymn

Suggestions (All from *Glory to God*):

#626 “As the Deer”

#627 “I Love You Lord”

#821 “My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing?)”

Affirmation of Faith

Use the excerpt below from A Brief Statement of Faith 10.3, use another Statement of Faith that is typically used by your church, or have the youth write their own! What do they believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, humanity, and/or the church?

One: Please rise if you are able and join me as we say what we believe together by reading the words printed in your bulletin (or on the screen).

**All: We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God’s image,**

male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments.
We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation.**

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

**In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people**

to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry,

God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

**Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the
prodigal home,**

God is faithful still.

Call to Offering

One: Friends, God has blessed us with time, talents and money. In response to the generosity that God has given us, let us also be generous and offer what we have to God.

Offertory

This is a great opportunity for any youth who play musical instruments to share their gifts with the congregation.

Prayer of Dedication

One: Gracious God, we come before you with our offerings, full of gratitude for all you have given us. Receive our gifts and bless them so that they can be used to serve your people. Amen.

Doxology

#606-#609 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” (Different arrangements from *Glory to God*)

Prayers of the People

One: Holy God, you hear us on our best days and in our darkest hours. You care for the whole world – for every nation and people. Trusting in your love for us and all of creation, we come before you now in prayer.

(Optional: have the congregation respond to each petition with “Lord, hear our prayer.” You can add in specific prayer requests for your congregation, community, and current world events at the end or where most relevant. You can also make space at the end for the youth and/or the congregation to voice their own prayer requests aloud.)

We pray for those who are sick and hurting, that their suffering will be eased.

We pray for those who grieve, that they will find solace.

We pray for those who are hungry or unhoused, that they will receive what they need.

We pray for those facing mental health challenges, that they will be comforted.

We pray for children and young people, that they will be loved and protected.

We pray for the church and its leaders, that they will have courage and passion to follow your will.

We pray for those who lead governments all over the world, that they will be filled with humility and wisdom.

We pray for people who live with terrible violence, that they will have peace and safety.

We pray for the earth and all living creatures, that they may flourish.

And finally, we pray for ourselves, that we may have courage and compassion to trust you, O God, to reflect your love to one another and all of the world.

And now we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying...

The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn

Suggestions (All from *Glory to God*):

#39 “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

#353 “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

#43 “You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord (On Eagles Wings)”

#687 “Our God Our Help in Ages Past”

Charge

One: Beloved friends, as you leave this place be strengthened in the knowledge that you stand on the solid rock of God's everlasting love for you. In the face of fear or doubt, walk boldly into the work God has laid out for you, trusting in the foundation of Christ's promises.

Benediction

Adapted from Jude 24-25

Now to the One who is able
to keep you from falling,
and to make you stand without blemish
in the presence of God's glory with rejoicing,
to the only God our Savior,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, power, and authority,
before all time and now and forever.
Amen.

Additional Ideas for Youth Participation

- Youth with visual artistic talents could create art to be printed on the cover of the bulletin, and/or to be shown on the screen that depicts their interpretation of the theme of "Solid Rock."
- All the youth could paint flat rocks (search for "river rocks for painting" or "kindness rocks" on Amazon or other craft supply store) with messages and images of trusting God to be distributed to the congregation at the conclusion of the service as a reminder that God is our solid rock.
- Youth can serve as ushers, greeters, etc.
- Youth can offer additional service music, such as the prelude, postlude, etc.
- Instead of writing a traditional sermon, youth could create skits depicting situations when they have trusted God and remembered that God is their solid rock in difficult times.

Author: Caitlin Supcoff

Project Manager: Gina Yeager-Buckley

