

Youth Sunday Worship

“Farther Along”

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude (Have a youth musician? Have them play, sing or both to help prepare the congregation to worship.)

Introit “*FARTHER ALONG*” (arr. Josh Garrels)

Call to Worship

Please join me in the Call to Worship...

Leader: Let us tell everyone of God’s words.

People: Truly God is good to those who are faithful.

Leader: We have made the Lord God our refuge.

People: In this kingdom, we are more than guests.

Leader: Farther along we’ll know all about it.

People: Farther along we’ll understand why.

Leader: Let us worship God!

HYMN #387

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

The Call to Confession

There is much more to life than we’ve been told. God has a plan to make us a new creation, pushing aside worldly matters, making all things new. Trusting in God’s perfect plan, let us confess our sins, first we hear confessions from the perspective of a teenager, then there will be a time of silence, followed by our corporate prayer in the bulletin... let us pray.

Teenager Prayers of Confession

1. God... I’ve made a mess of many things.
2. God... the pressures have made me do things I’ve never thought I would do.
3. God... I’m just not how you want me to be.

ALL: Hear my prayer.

1. I'm so stressed over my weight I barely eat.
2. I quit volunteering at the animal shelter. I was tired of my friends making fun of me. I miss those animals so much.
3. As I'm leaving the store the other day there was that person who asked for some spare change... I had some, but I told him I didn't have any and we all laughed when one of my friends told the guy to "Get a job!"

ALL: Forgive me, God.

1. I have been mean to people on social media. It's so easy when you don't have to show your face... but I am ashamed.
2. I cheated on that test. I didn't get caught. But God, do you know what will happen if I come home even with a "B"?
3. I lied to my parents about where I was last night... let's just say... they would not have approved.

ALL: Forgive me, God.

1. My friend asked me to come to his house to talk with him about a problem he was having. Instead, I blew him off to go play basketball with my friends.
2. There was a fight at school today... I could have stopped it before it even started, but I didn't. Both of them are really hurt.
3. My friend called that girl something so bad that I can't even repeat it... I just laughed and went along with it. We made her cry.

ALL: Forgive me, God.

1. I skipped church this week. And last week. Actually, I skip a lot...
2. I can't remember the last time I read the Bible...
3. I can't remember the last time I prayed...

ALL: Forgive me, God.

1. I want to put God at the center of my life.
2. I need to be more like Jesus.
3. I have to change. I need your help. I need your forgiveness. Forgive me, God.
2. Forgive me, God.
1. Forgive me, God.

ALL: Forgive me, God.

(Silent prayer then continue...) And together let us all pray...

Prayer of Confession

You have paved a path for us to follow - yet we often find ourselves lost. It is clear to us that we should follow you; however, we are constantly tempted and tried by worldly matters that cause us to stray. Forgive us, Lord, and guide us back to you. Allow us to be washed over by your unconditional love, so that we can overflow with joy as you've called us to do; through Christ we pray. Amen.

Kyrie

Declaration of Pardon

Each time we confess our sins we are farther along in our relationship with Jesus because he sets us back on the path towards who we were truly created to be. Christ does this out of his grace-filled love that led him to give his life so we could live with God forever. Through Christ's resurrection, we find that no sin will get the last word. Believe the good news of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

As we have received forgiveness from the love and grace of Jesus Christ, we have the ability to share that same love and grace with our neighbors. So let us now share the peace of Christ with one another!

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray,
Holy God, we cannot understand the Scripture without the guidance of your Holy Spirit. So, open our hearts and minds so that we may hear your Word and by hearing it, be strengthened in faith as we move father along the journey of life. For we pray this in Christ's name. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson – PSALM 73:1-3, 16-28

The first scripture lesson this morning is the 73rd Psalm, verse 1 through 3, and verses 16-28... Hear now the Word of God... (no read the translation of your choice of the passage)
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem/Solo *Here's another opportunity for youth to share their gifts)*

Second Scripture Lesson - ACTS 8:26 (Reader Theater Style)

(On the Director's Cue, characters will open your folder at the same time)

- Reader 1: Please be seated. This morning's scripture comes from the Acts of the Apostles; chapter eight, verses twenty-six through thirty-nine.
- Reader 2: This morning we will hear of the Apostle Philip who had been previously preaching the good news of Jesus Christ in places like Samaria but is about to be called to go to a new place to preach.
- Reader 1: On his journey, he encounters someone he wasn't expecting... and something holy happens!
- Choir: Oooohhhh!!!!
- Reader 2: Let all with ears listen to the Word of God...
- Reader 3: An angel of the Lord said to Philip...
- Angel/Spirit: Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.
- Choir: THIS... is a wilderness road... Oooooooh!!!

- Reader 3: So, he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Cadance, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of entire treasury.
- Choir: Cha, Ching!
- Reader 3: He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip...
- Angel/Spirit: Go over to his chariot and join it.
- Philip: OK! (*Start jogging in place*)
- Reader 3: So, Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked...
- Philip: (*Stop jogging*) Do you understand what you are reading?
- Reader 3: He replied...
- Eunuch: How can I unless someone guides me? Come, sit with me.
- Reader 4: Now the passage of the scripture he was reading was this:
- Isaiah: Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter...
- Choir: Eww!
- Isaiah: And like a lamb silent before its shearer so he does not open his mouth.
- Choir: Shhhh!
- Isaiah: In his humiliation justice was denied him.
- Choir: Boo!!!
- Isaiah: Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.
- Reader 4: The Eunuch and Philip...
- Eunuch: About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?
- Philip: Hmm... (*makes a thinking face*)
- Choir: (*hums the Jeopardy theme*)
- Reader 4: Then Philip began to speak (*Philip stops thinking*) and like a good children's sermon, I bet you can guess who Philip said this passage was about...
- Choir: JESUS!!!
- Reader 4: That's right and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed the good news about Jesus!
- Choir: HOORAY!!!
- Reader 4: As they went FARTHER ALONG, they came to some water; and the Eunuch said...
- Eunuch: Look! (*Point at the baptismal font*)
- Philip: What? (*Look at the font*)
- Eunuch: Here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized? (*Lift water out of the font*)
- Reader 4: The Eunuch commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the Eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him (*Philip and Eunuch duck behind the font and splash water from the font.*)
- Reader 5: When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; (*Spirit comes and grabs Philip and they walk towards the front of the sanctuary*) the Eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing.
- Eunuch: I be-lieve! I be-lieve! (*Eunuch & Spirit start dancing*)
- Choir: (*Choir joins in...*) I believe-I believe-I believe-I believe, I believe-I believe-I believe-I believe! I BE-LIEVE!!! Yea!!!! (from "I'm a Believer" Smashmouth version)
- Reader 5: (*makes a "coughing" sound to get everyone's attention*) My friends...
- Choir: This is the word of the Lord! (*Close folder*)
- Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

(About Readers Theater... Readers Theater is a dramatic reading where the voices are grouped together similar to a vocal choir set up. They read the script where the drama mostly unfolds through the vocal expression and inflection rather than body movement. While this script calls for bodily movement, you will see it is limited. "Readers" can be condensed to fewer readers if you need less people. The "Choir" are all the voices in unison. You can also include voices who are only part of the "Choir" if you have extra people, or you want to get more people involved. Be creative in how you direct expression/inflection and how you arrange your group. There really isn't a right or wrong way to do this, just make it work for your space and participants.)

Sermon(s)

(Here, have older youth reflect on how their spiritual journeys reflect someone from the passage. 3 or 4 youth maximum, no more than 5 minutes each is plenty of time.)

HYMN #392

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

The Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

- Reader 1: This morning for our time of prayer we not only invite you to pray with your eyes open and your head up but to join us in our prayer as well. When one of us says, "*In your mercy*," please respond with "*Hear us, Lord*" Let's try it... In your mercy... **HEAR US, LORD!** Good! Now let us pray...
- Reader 2: Loving God, we pray this morning for the teenagers of the world. As we are in between childhood and adulthood there are many hurdles we must cross. We are STRESSED. There is so much on our plates, at times it becomes overwhelming. We struggle juggling all the commitments we have, and we struggle balancing things we have to do with the things we want to do. The PRESSURE we face, whether it's from family, friends, school, activities, or even ourselves, makes being a teenager at times more difficult than we can handle. And with so much going on... we're EXHAUSTED more often than not.
In your mercy... Hear Us, Lord!
- Reader 1: Compassionate Lord, because of all these things we face, we pray for the teenagers of the world who face fiercer challenges than most. We pray for teens whose only meal of the day comes from the school's cafeteria. We pray for teens that have difficulties communicating with others. We pray for teens who feel they have no friends. We pray for teens that are IGNORED by others. We pray for teens who are BULLIED. We pray for teens who struggle with DEPRESSION. We pray for teens that see no way out of the pain they feel and are SUICIDAL.
In your mercy... Hear Us, Lord!
- Reader 2: Awesome God, we pray your Spirit's presence on all teenagers. Give HOPE to those who feel lost or have no one to turn to. Give us ENTHUSIASM to find ways to connect with other teens and reach out to those who may need a friend. Lord, keep us ALERT to the needs and struggles young people face and help us REMIND them of your love through our actions.
In your mercy... Hear Us, Lord!
- Reader 1: God of all ages...many here may have forgotten what it is like to be a teenager. At the same time, being a teenager today is different in many ways than it used to be. We pray all ages have a better UNDERSTANDING of what teenagers face daily and STRENGTHEN all generations to come together to support teenagers as they grow in faith, in life, through prayer and through LOVE.
In your mercy... Hear Us, Lord!
- Reader 2: God of all people, help each of us OPEN our hearts to young people as we journey father along with them in faith. May all your church REFLECT Christ's love for all people and especially for children and youth. No matter how old we are, DIRECT us, Lord, to follow your ways all the days of our lives.
Reader 1: Lord, as we offer this prayer to you, we take a moment to reflect on these actions held up (*pause*) and as they come tougher, we once again ask you with humble hearts...
In your mercy... Hear Us, Lord!
- Reader 2: For we pray these things in the name of Christ our savior, who also taught us to pray this way saying, Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by 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.
- Vocal Response (3-fold Amen or something similar)

(Notes about how to make this prayer happen...)

You will need at least 11 youth (or youth and adults if your group is smaller) to do this, 10 holding signs and one person to pray, but two prayers would be better as it divided above.

You would line the youth up on the right side of the worship space (as if you were looking at the chancel area) according to their first cue word and they would walk their sign across to the other side. The blank signs will follow behind the person before them and can either hold their sign up or keep it low until they have to flip the sign.

On the second cue word, they will turn their word over as the readers say them, and then as the words are asked to come together you will see the hidden word in the word, "Hear Our Prayer." See the pictures below to see what this looks like.

Materials: 10 foam boards, 4 poster boards, cut to fit properly, tape to connect poster board to foam board

Beginning—poster boards on this side



Flipped over (poster boards up so you can see)

Right before it comes together, flip poster boards to other side.



Words come together—Final!

Offertory Call

For ___ years (number of years your congregation has been in existence in the blank), (insert the name of your congregation) has supported youth like us in this congregation. Because of the generosity of our church family, we, the youth, are able to grow in our faith and our ministry with each other and to the wider community. We extend our gratitude to our church family for your continued faithful support. But we also know that our ministry will strengthen as the whole church is strengthened through our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. So now let us joyfully offer our gifts to the Lord.

Offertory Music

Doxology (optional)

Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray...

Holy Lord, you have perfected love among us by sending your son to be the sacrifice for our sins. We humbly acknowledge your gift as an overwhelming pronouncement of grace. Help us stay focused on you so that through our lives, and by these gifts presented we will be more faithful to you and serve you to the best of our abilities- through Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN #430

Come Sing, O Church in Joy!

Benediction

Go from this place filled with faith and hope knowing that even when we are tempted and tried Christ will always be with us to love us and guide us farther along in this journey of life. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Benediction Response (optional)

Postlude

(Hymn selections are merely suggestions, feel free to change them as you wish. This is written in gratitude to the youth of the Salisbury Presbyterian Church, Midlothian, VA and for their contributions to the liturgy.)

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