

## Youth Sunday Worship

"Out of many, we are one": Youth Sunday Resource 2016

### Welcome & Announcement

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

Leader: We are surrounded by diversity.

**People: We all come from different backgrounds.**

Leader: We are here together to listen to God's Word.

**People: We live together and are bound by God's love.**

Leader: The Lord calls us to worship in unity.

**People: In our worship, let us become one.**

### Hymn #321 – *The Church's One Foundation*

(All hymn suggestions are from "Glory to God.")

### Call to Confession *(Preparation and Leader Instructions)*

*For the time of Confession/Assurance, you need:*

- *white foam board*
- *paint*
- *brushes*
- *white poster board*
- *scissors*
- *clear tape*
- *disposable gloves*
- *a tarp or painter sheeting to cover the floors in the area where you will be painting, and*
- *something to hang five foam boards on easily. The example shown on the next page uses a cross with five nails to hang the foam boards. On each foam board, paint one of the words bolded in the Declaration of Pardon. When you paint each word on a foam board, do not use the entire board, but leave some space around each word.*



*After you have painted the five bolded words in the Declaration of Pardon, cut the poster board to cover each word and tape it on each foam board. After you do this, each foam board should appear to be totally blank.*

*Next, use each of the five foam boards with poster boards taped on them to paint each of the five bolded words shown below in the Call to Confession.*

*Now the boards are ready to have the youth hang each word up when the liturgist reads each word. Have the liturgist pause to allow each youth enough time to hang their word and return to their place.*

## Call to Confession

As we approach this time of confession, let us remember that Jesus went to the cross to pay for our sins. There are many sins we commit collectively that seek to pull us apart from one another. So we begin our time of confession naming those things that seek to break apart the body of Christ:

We sin by dividing ourselves into groups: the haves and the have-nots, the best and the worst, winners and losers, the popular and shunned. Forgive us for **division**. (PAUSE)

We sin by excluding those who are different from us: by how they look, what they wear, how they behave, how they talk, and where they are from. Forgive us for **exclusiveness**. (PAUSE)

We sin by isolating ourselves from the outside world. We ignore injustice. We pretend tragedies do not exist, so we do not have to feel obligated to help. Forgive us for **isolation**. (PAUSE)

We sin by putting up walls. We keep out the things that make us uncomfortable even if it's at the expense of others. We block out the things we don't understand without seeking to hear a different perspective from our own. Forgive us for putting up **walls**. (PAUSE)

We sin through hate. We choose not to love our neighbors. We see the worst in others. We stereotype. We mock. We insult. We generalize. We do not give the benefit of the doubt. We hurt others. Forgive us for our **hate**. (PAUSE)

As we reflect on the sins of the world, let us all confess our sins before God as we pray the Prayer of Confession in the bulletin. Let us pray:

## Call to Confession *(Leader Instructions and Notes)*

*At this point, have youth wearing disposable gloves scoop up paint with their hands and smear the paint all over the foam boards. This needs to be done quickly. This action provides a visual of God "wiping" away our sins. The youth can do this while the congregation is praying the unison prayer, and it would be a good idea to have a brief Kyrie or musical interlude to give them more time. The youth could use very large brushes or rollers instead of their hands—whatever can quickly and safely cover as much of each board as possible.*

# Prayer of Confession

*In Unison:*

Holy God, so often we forget to live through you. We get distracted and our focus shifts from you to material things and wants. We get so caught up in ourselves that we fail to come together as one. We stray from our faith, getting far off track of your vision for us. Forgive us, O Lord, for putting you off. Help us to remember it takes many parts to make up one whole. Guide us to work as one people, not just single individuals. Lead us all in a direction of togetherness, so we may live faithfully as one. Through Christ we pray, Amen!

## Kyrie (or Musical Interlude)

## Declaration of Pardon *(Leader Instructions and Notes)*

*At the end of each sentence, the youth rip off the poster board taped to each sign to reveal the hidden word. The effect is that God replaces our sin with a new way to live.*

## Declaration of Pardon

The good news of the gospel is that everything we have done wrong is forgiven by the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Through God's grace any divisions can stop and **togetherness** can happen. *(rip off "division") (PAUSE)*

Through God's acceptance of us, God can show us that being **inclusive** of all God's people—even though we differ—is the way. *(rip off "exclusiveness") (PAUSE)*

Through God's friendship, we are never are alone. And we are called to build **community** with one another. *(rip off "isolation") (PAUSE)*

Because Christ died for all, walls can be brought down and turned into **bridges**. *(rip off "walls") (PAUSE)*

Through the cross, Christ shows us how to turn hate into **love**. *(rip off "hate") (PAUSE)*

Believe the Good News—in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

## Gloria Patri

## Passing of the Peace

Christ's love has no limits. It is given to all so we can be united as one in the body of Christ. Let us live into Christ's love by sharing his peace with each other by saying "May the peace of Christ be with you." *(The congregation passes the peace.)*

## **Children’s Message** *(Leader Instructions and Notes)*

*Suggestion: Take a photo of the congregation and have it custom made into a large puzzle of no more than 25 pieces, but fewer if possible. Ask the children if they can tell what the puzzle picture is by looking at only one piece of the puzzle. Then work with them to put the puzzle together. Talk about how we are all part of the church, and if we are not all here, then a piece of the church is missing.*

## **Children’s Message**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Let us pray:

**Holy God, open our hearts and minds to hear your Good News. Through your Word unite us as your church so that we can more faithfully do the work of Christ our Lord. Through Him we pray. Amen.**

### **First Scripture Lesson**

ROMANS 12:3–8

### **Anthem** (Optional)

### **Second Scripture Lesson**

FIRST CORINTHIANS 12:12–27

### **Sermon** (Suggestion: Seniors Preach)

### **Hymn #302 – *When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace***

### **The Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

*(Leader Instructions and Notes)*

*This prayer needs 12 participants. Each youth will have a sign hanging from their neck. Each sign names a body part, and each person portrays that body part in their speech. Each sign will have one detachable letter that will be taken off towards the end of the prayer (see photos below). When the detached letters are held up together, they spell the words: “BODY OF CHRIST.” Two standing microphones for the youth to come to each time they speak seem to work well. The list of body parts needed for the prayer, and the letter of each body part that needs to be detachable are shown below:*



*Supplies Needed:*

- foam board
- double-sided tape or stick glue
- regular tape
- scissors
- X-Acto knife
- ribbon
- sticky poster putty
- pencil

*Construction: Letters are printed on paper, cut to size, then either double-sided taped or “glue-sticked” to the cut foam board. The detachable letter is backed with foam board as well, then stuck on to the foam board where it needs to be placed.*

***Back | nOse | hanDs | eYes | mOuth | Finger | neCk | Head | eaR | hIp | legS | fooT***

*Each letter capitalized above is the letter that needs to be detachable from the rest of the word. This is also the order the youth need to be standing in.*

***B-O-D-Y O-F C-H-R-I-S-T***

*The appropriate letters detached spell “BODY OF CHRIST.”*



*The 12 youth are lined up across the front of the congregation as shown above. All people are looking forward, except for HEAD, whose head is down, and EYE, whose eyes are closed. All are wearing signs around their necks indicating their body part.*

# The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

FINGER: For our prayers this morning, we direct you to pray with your heads raised...

(HAND moves over to HEAD to lift up his/her head...HAND can also raise his/her sign up with the other hand while doing that. HEAD smiles.)

FINGER: . . . and your eyes open.

(FINGER looks back at EYE and snaps fingers in front of EYE'S face. EYE opens eyes.)

FINGER: Let Us Pray!

MOUTH: Lord, we give you thanks and praise for all that you provide us.

LEGS: We praise you for the land which gives us so many great terrains to walk, run, and bike.

NOSE: We praise you for backyard barbecues and wonderful spring flowers that bring us great smells.

EAR: We praise you for the whistling of the wind, a baby's laugh, and beautiful music, even those jingles on the radio that we can't get out of our heads.

(ALL: Have the youth sing together a quick jingle they often hear on the radio from their community.)

EAR: Yep . . . like that one.

HAND: We praise you for the touch of another person's hand and the ability to hold onto those we love.

NECK: We praise you because we can perceive you all around us—not just in certain places.

HIP: We praise you for strong support systems in our community who uphold, encourage, and support us.

BACK: But God, the world isn't straight and perfect. There are many places where things are misaligned, crooked, and out of place.

LEGS: The world is kicking...

MOUTH: and SCREAMING...

HEAD: for more Christ-like thoughtfulness, wisdom, and compassion;

FOOT: for direction on which road we must travel to be the most faithful;

HANDS: for strength to hold up those the world wants us to ignore.

HIP: To sway the world's attention towards the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the suffering,

FOOT: for those who spend hours and hours each day on their feet working multiple jobs just to make ends meet,

LEGS: for those who walk miles on end looking for work, and those who search for a place to rest,

HIPS: Lord, help us not to turn away from those in great need.

NOSE: Help us sniff out the places where injustices occur; where inequality exists, and where tragedies need to be brought to light. And give us the courage to lend a helping . . .

HAND: Hand! (*Hand extends outward!*)

EYE: Give us vision and guidance as we seek to help those in need.

FINGER: Help us grasp on to the things you call holy and let go of the things that keep us from you.

BACK: Help us keep faithfully upright and courageous to share the good news with others.

FINGERS: When conflicts arise, help us not to point blame towards our neighbors,

HEAD: or make mean faces,

EYE: or give dirty looks,

NECK: or be so stiff-necked that we refuse to acknowledge others who differ from us.

BACK: Instead, may we find ways to encourage others and even . . .

HAND: Pat . . . (HAND begins patting BACK on the back. BACK turns and looks.

HAND smiles "cheekily" and BACK continues.)

BACK: . . . each other on the back.

MOUTH: Holy God, we have only one mouth,



EAR: but two ears.  
MOUTH: So help us . . .  
EAR: listen more . . .  
MOUTH: and speak . . .  
EAR: less.  
EYE: May we see others as you see us.  
NOSE: May we breathe in your spirit of love, peace, and grace as we serve those whom you call us to serve;  
FINGER: May we trace our path back towards you, . . .  
FOOT: standing firm on our faith.  
HEAD: For all these things . . .  
MOUTH: spoken, . . .  
EAR: hear our prayers.  
HIP: And help us remember that while we are many parts, . . .  
NECK: . . . we are united as one because no matter what part we may be, we are all . . .  
(NECK returns to spot. ALL the participants pull off the specific letter from their "Nametag" and hold it up. Then NECK continues.)  
NECK: The BODY OF CHRIST.  
(PAUSE . . . wait for a cue to bring letters down, then HIP continues)  
HIP: We pray these things in the name of Christ our Savior . . .  
NECK: and we join our . . .  
MOUTH: . . . voices together . . .  
NECK: . . . to pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray saying, . . .  
ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

## The Offering

When we all come together as one, we find that God can do so much more with us than we could ever do on our own. So let us bring our many gifts together as a symbol that we are united together in ministry to do the work of Jesus Christ here in our community and beyond.  
(*Ushers receive the offering*)

## Doxology

## Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Let us pray:

Thank you, God, for allowing our congregation to come together and give our time and dedication to those who are in need. Please bless the gifts we have just received. Allow our youth opportunities to contribute and serve those in our community and beyond. We pray that these gifts can feed the hungry and strengthen the weak. And may we offer our whole selves for the work of God's kingdom. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

# Hymn #733 – *We All Are One in Mission*

## Benediction

There is but one story: one God, one savior, and one people. Go from this place knowing that you are not alone—that you are part of the body of Christ. Go from this place and share God’s love so that all the world may unite together through the saving love of Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Postlude

**Author/Creator:** Jeremy Wilhelmi  
First led by Jeremy and the youth of Salisbury Presbyterian Church  
Midlothian, Virginia

