Youth Sunday Order of Worship
Theme : Youth with Christ in Action

Text : OT - Daniel 1:1-17, 2. Psalm 98 (may be used as responsive reading), Epistle - Acts. 6:1-7, Gospel - John 1:35-42.

Call to Worship

Minister : Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come, and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no pleasure in them". Eccl 12:1
Congregation : Creator God, we draw near to you because you are our source of life and strength. We come before you in this hour of worship with humility and meekness. We acknowledge your gift of life and the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. Accept our worship and may this time of worship lead us to the path of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Opening Hymn

Praise and Adoration

L: In the broken aesthetics of nature and in our distorted lives,
All: We see your face.
L: In the groaning of the creation and exploited lives,
All: We see your suffering solidarity.
L: In this journey of faith and in witnessing the crucified Christ in this world.
All: We see your love and compassion.
In unison: praise be to you and you alone, now and forever world without end. Amen.

Common Prayer of Thanksgiving (*All say together*) :

Creator God, we thank you for all the manifold blessings in our lives. We humble ourselves before you in gratitude for those things which we have taken for granted, but which are the essential part of our lives. We thank you for reminding us through these symbols that we are to be ever grateful to you for you are Creator, sustainer and provider. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Act of Confession: (A group of 4 young people stand facing the congregation in the front and each holding the placards, each placard should be displayed while reading the confession prayer)

(Some more extempore prayers may be done according to the Church Context)

Leader:

Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, we come before your throne of Grace seeking your mercy for we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. We have not listened to ourselves and to our conscience.

As we confess our shortcomings help us to truly confess and seek your grace and Love, through your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Unemployment:

God of all resources, through your abundance grace you have filled our land with natural resources and blessed all people with gift of knowledge and wisdom. Lord, help us to remember our weaknesses and overcome in accepting the reality that our living sustains through earning. Many a times we have become the victims of economic forces. We confess that our type of society and structures is imbalanced in providing suitable job/ work for those who seek work and feel their dignity is diminished. Empower us to rethink and re-image our life style so that our young generation people will find suitable employment for their living.

Congregation: God of all resources, encourage us to voice our concerns.

Addictions:

God of Deliverance, many of our young people are weighed down with some form of addition and feel loneliness and dejected. Their addictions have burdened themselves and the families have been put to shame. Gracious God, we bring all those who think that they are hopeless and that there is no way out of the terrible addiction which has entrapped them – Lord there are so many people who have become enslaved to various forms of addiction – yet we know that there is wonderful hope for everyone - no matter what level to which they have sunk. Look down with your grace and compassion on all who are so entrapped in their addictions and help us to welcome those who are in that situation to be part of our community.

Congregation: God of deliverance, strengthen them overcome their addictions.

Denial:

God of acceptance, many of our young people face denials in various forms due to their lifestyles. They are in dilemma and are on cross roads and fail to accept the situations. They long for comfort zones, help us to recognize them and accept them as they are.

Congregation: God of acceptance, give us the courage to welcome them.

Religious Fundamentalism

God of Love, many of our young people have misconceptions about their own religious faiths, which tend to create confusion and hatredness towards each other. We have not accepted the fact that we need to respect every religion and love our fellow human beings. Due to this, we, our churches and our society have become self-centered.

Congregation: God of Love, empower us to love one another as you have loved us.

Absolution:

God has reconciled the world to Himself through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, not counting our weaknesses and shortcomings, but through His grace and Love. By the ministry of reconciliation entrusted by Christ to His Church, receive His pardon and Peace to stand firm in faith, hope and love and to be channels and instruments of deliverance, acceptance and love. Amen

The Peace
(the sharing of peace may be done here after the absolution).

Minister : The Peace of God be with you
Congregation : And also with you.

Collect (All say together) :

God of love and life, we thank you for your son and our Lord Jesus Christ who set a model for us by humbly submitting himself to your will. Help our youth to use their creativity, wisdom and strength to serve you by serving the humanity. Enable them to lead a Christ-Centered and justice-oriented life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 98 (may be read responsively)

After the reading of the Psalm the following is said responsively

Minister : Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Congregation : As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

The Readings from the Scripture

1. OT - Daniel 1:1-17
2. Epistle - Acts. 6:1-7
4. Gospel - John 1:35-42

(A special song/Skit can be used inbetween readings in accordance with the theme for the day)

Sermon

The Apostles creed *(modified for the occasion based on the theme)*

I believe in the creator God, who promised to know me from my mother's womb and still remembers the covenant that was made in the days of youth and established an everlasting covenant.
I believe in Jesus Christ the only begotten son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of Young Mary who sang the liberating song to raise the lowly ones. He began his ministry in his youthful time choosing to establish the mission of God on earth. For which He suffered under the structural power of Pontius Pilate, was crucified with blames, died a shameful death on the cross, and was buried. He descended into the dead but death could not hold him and He rose on the third day . He ascended into heaven handing over us the responsibility to continue the mission of God.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth and courage, the Holy Universal Church established in the communion of saints of the old and the visionaries of the young and God's faithfulness will provide a way to set an example in the days of youth to be imitators of Jesus Christ now and always. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

The following points of intercession can be used with the congregational response, ' Hear our Prayer' after each prayer.

1. Prayer for those young people who are victims of the economic crisis in our country, i.e the farmers and unemployed youth in our country.
2. Prayer for those young people who are victims of abuse, i.e those who are harassed/abused and those who are victims of addictions
3. Prayer for those young people who are victims of social stigma, i.e those who are ostracized by society and families because of their social or mental condition.
4. Prayer for those young people who are victims of cultural and religious fundamentalism, i.e those who are intolerant towards people of other cultures and religions.

Prayer of Commitment
(all young people may say this prayer standing before the altar or in their respective places)

Almighty God our heavenly father, we your children come before you to commit ourselves to work with you in this world. We commit ourselves to be your partners in this world to complete your task in this world. We commit our lives towards Justice, Peace and Reconciliation so that our societies and families would become a better place through our commitment. We commit our lives to be your witness through our thought, words and deeds. So help us God. Amen.

Benediction

The Holy Eucharist may be used after the Benediction.