

DEDICATION CEREMONY

This service is for all participants in the Youth & Family Ministry Program.
Its intention is to honor all who attend.

Supplies

- Children's Certificates, 1/child
- Teacher Certificates, 1/teacher
- Copies of, "*A Prayer For Our Children*," 1/ Sunday bulletin, see end of lesson
- Copy of Teacher Dedication, 1/per teacher, see end of lesson
- Candle with drip sleeves, 1/Uniteens, YOUers & adult
- Glow Sticks, 1/ children 5th grade and younger
- Matches
- Small Table
- Table Cloth
- 1 Christ Candle
- 4 Tall Candles
- 4 Candle Holders
- Gifts for graduating YOUers

Music Suggestions

- **Procession:** "We Are Walking in the Light" or other song you use as children enter each Sunday.
- **Honoring Song:** "Face of God," Karen Drucker, *Songs of the Spirit II*; (Available from iTunes as a \$.99 download)
- **Recessional Song:** Song of your choice

Set up:

- Insert, *Prayer For Our Children*," into Sunday bulletins.
- Place table with 1 Christ candle surrounded by 4 additional candles, holders and matches at the center front. The 4 candles can be different colors as they represent different groups.
 - o 1 Candle represents the teachers
 - o 1 for the YOUers
 - o 1 for the Uniteens
 - o 1 for the Children
- Reserve seats for Youth Ministry in the Sanctuary.
- Enlist volunteers to sit with the younger children so they are not alone as the teachers are honored.
- Make sure the teachers, Uniteens and YOUers have their candles in hand.
- Enlist volunteer to hand out certificates & teacher dedication to the teachers.
- Enlist volunteers (can be the ones sitting with the children) to hand a glow stick to each younger child as they are called to the platform.
- Fill out Teacher Certificates, arrange in order of Nursery to YOU Sponsors.
- For the Children/Teen certificates;
 - o Fill in the names as they arrive for the day.
 - o Pass them out after the ceremony is over. Handling both the certificate and candle would be too much.

CEREMONY

Youth Minister / Director Goes to Podium

Say: “Welcome to a very special time of year in the lives of our children, teens and teachers here at _____. This is the time that we give thanks for the honor of participating in their spiritual journey, we recognize the significant contribution of all the teachers and staff and we acknowledge the milestones achieved by our teens.

Since we are all a part of this spiritual community we are so please to be able to share this experience with all of you.

“As we join in a sacred prayerful state of mind, please focus your love and Christ energy on our blessed teachers, children and teens as they are honored for their outstanding magnificence.

Entering the Sanctuary

- Music plays and all enter and come to the front of the Sanctuary and take their seats. Please seat children in classroom groupings with the Uniteens and Y.O.Uers in the front rows.

Youth Minister - Honor Teachers

Say: Teaching is a sacred honor and we are grateful to those gathered here today for their selfless service. They have made a commitment not only to studying and understanding Truth but to live it as a model for our children and teens. Our primary purpose is to created safe and sacred programs that allow for the unfoldment of the divine nature that is inherent in each soul. Through this dedication to living Principle they call into expression these divine qualities of our children and teens.

Myrtle Fillmore, our co-founder said it best when she said, “Our mission is not to entertain the children, but to call them out. To be always entertained is to be dwarfed and dependent. To be ‘called out’ is to follow the harmonious law of the soul’s unfoldment. Who meddles with the rosebud? What fingers are deft enough to pry open that marvel of folded beauty? We are wise enough to leave it alone to follow the glad law of its own unfolding, but our children! Have we dealt as wisely with these buds of marvelous possibilities? Have we always remembered that they, too, must quicken and unfold through the innate law of their own genius?”

It is my great privilege and honor to introduce to you those dedicated individual who serve here every Sunday helping the beauty of all our children to unfold. Without them there would be no program and I am eternally grateful for their dedication, desire to grow and their loving hearts. Thank you all.

Action

Introduce the teachers in the age groups they teach beginning with the Nursery and/or Preschool.

- **One teacher comes forward and lights the candle that represents the teachers.**
- Then announce this teacher's name, they light their small candle from the teacher candle, receive their certificate & dedication statement, and stand stage right.
- Continue calling the teachers forward. They light their candle, receive their certificate & dedication statement and teachers for nursery, preschool and elementary stand together stage right. Uniteen leaders stand in the center and YOU sponsors stand stage left.

Teachers Read Together

The Dedication Statement: *By Rev. Stephen Towles*

We light this candle as a symbol of lighting the light that is within us.
That it may shine forth, giving out love, peace, wisdom, compassion and understanding.
That we bring this to conscious awareness into ourselves.
That we consciously and willingly let Divine Mind work in and through us.
That we consciously and willingly let Divine ideas work in and through us.
That we consciously and willingly let Your will not ours be done.
We now ask that the Christ spirit within us:
Enable us to teach with wisdom, for we help to shape the mind.
Equip us to teach with Truth, for we help to shape the conscience.
Encourage us to teach with vision, for we help to shape the future.
Empower us to teach with love, for we help to shape the world.
We, the teachers and Sponsors, now dedicate ourselves to the children of
Unity of _____ and to the children of the world. Amen!

Youth Minister/Director - Honoring the Children

- **Invite one of the teachers or 5th graders to light the children's candle from the Christ candle.**
- Then invite all children from nursery through 5th grade to come to the platform, in a line as they are seated if possible, receive their glow stick and stand with their group of teachers.

Say to the group: We honor the Christ Light that shines from you as you. Let your light shine!
Have volunteers assist the children in shaking and cracking their glow sticks so they light up.

Youth Minister/Director – Honoring Y.O.U.

- Begin with the graduating Y.O.U.
- Call them forward one by one. **The first one called lights the YOU candle from the Christ candle** and then lights their own candle. They receive their gift and go to stand with the YOU Sponsors. Hugs all around are appropriate!
- Once they have all come forward,
Say to the group: As you take this step out into the world we acknowledge the love and wisdom that are a part of you. We wish you great joy, amazing adventures and soul-filling experiences. And always remember – you are a part of us and we are a part of you and you are a blessing to this world. We love you!
- Next call forward the rest of the YOUers, one by one. They light their candle and then stand with the rest of the YOU group.
- Now call forward the students moving from Uniteen to YOU. One by one they come forward, light their candle and stand with their Uniteen leader.
- **Invite one of the Uniteen Leaders to say to the group:** (Something they have prepared) or **say:** We have been blessed by your presence in our group and we honor the Spirit of the Divine that we can all so clearly see shining forth from you. We wish you well as you continue on in this adventure called life.
- **YOU Sponsor or YOUer says:** We see your light and true nature and welcome you to our family.
- New YOUers move to the YOU group.

Youth Minister/Director – Honoring Uniteens:

- One by one, invite the **current Uniteens** to come forward. **The first one lights the Uniteen Candle from the Christ candle.**
- As they come forward, they light their candle from the Uniteen candle and then stand with the Uniteen leaders.
- Now call the students who are moving into Uniteens to come forward one by one. They light their candles and go and stand with the Uniteen group.
- **Say to the Uniteens:** We honor the light of God in you and know that it shines brightly now and always.

Youth Minister / Director to Congregation: Please join me in blessing our teachers, teens and children:

Say: We see how brightly your Christ Light shines. As you travel along your spiritual path, may your light shine brighter, creating a beacon of God. We are here with you always to extend our love, support and help."

Congregational Song: "Face of God," Karen Drucker, *Songs of the Spirit II*

Congregational Prayer: "A Prayer for Our Children," flyer in bulletin.

Processional: Song of your choice

The Dedication Statement:

By Rev. Stephen Towles

We light this candle as a symbol of lighting the light
that is within us.
That it may shine forth, giving out love, peace, wisdom,
compassion and understanding.

That we bring this to conscious awareness into
ourselves.

That we consciously and willingly let Divine Mind work
in and through us.

That we consciously and willingly let Divine ideas work
in and through us.

That we consciously and willingly let Your will not ours
be done.

We now ask that the Christ spirit within us:

Enable us to teach with wisdom, for we help to shape
the mind.

Equip us to teach with Truth, for we help to shape the
conscience.

Encourage us to teach with vision, for we help to shape
the future.

Empower us to teach with love, for we help to shape
the world.

We, the teachers and Sponsors, now dedicate ourselves
to the children of

Unity of _____ and to the children of
the world.
Amen!

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Amen!

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN

Rev. Stephen Towles

Loving Spirit, Source of All Wisdom, love and joy,
we call forth from our hearts
the courage to create a world which brings forth the
best and highest
for our children.

A world which is safe,
so they may know the joy of laughter
and the power of love.

To feel the creative energy of the Universe
flow through their open and receptive
hearts, minds and bodies.

We call upon the highest and the best within ourselves
to love all the children,
to recognize and seize the opportunity
to be a positive example.

We enfold all the children in the love of God.
We place all the children in the light of God.
We call forth from within them the power of God.
We see in each child the presence of God.
We affirm that our children are under the
Divine protection of the Holy Spirit
and all is in Divine Order.

In the name and through the nature of the Christ
presence, we declare this is so.
Amen

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