

Every Day is a Day of Joy

An all-age communion to remember
and celebrate the gift of our children
and young people



inspired by Thom M Shuman

wild goose
publications



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Opening responses:

Give thanks to God!

We thank God for the joy of jumping rope and the
laughter in playing leapfrog!

Give thanks to God at all times!

We thank God for the cool waters of a pool on a hot
summer day,
and the way the water surprises us
when we first jump in!

Give thanks to God at all times and for all things!

We thank God for fireflies making our nights brighter and
for butterflies which tickle us awake after a nap!

Prayer:

Every day is a day of wonder, Imaginative God:
filled with empty cardboard boxes that can take us to the
moon,
and long afternoon games
where the score is never kept.

You rub the sleep from our eyes
so we can see you at play:
in the children on the corner,
in the teenager balancing on a skateboard, in the older
couple waltzing the night away.

From the cereal which crackles us awake to the cat
stalking the sunbeam;

from the baby just discovering her toes
to the old man who secretly puts sacks of tomatoes
on his neighbours' porches;
from the hummingbird drinking nectar
to the dog grabbing the hose out of our hand –
every day is a day of laughter,
Smiling Christ.

We hear the squeals of the children jumping on the
trampoline,
and the sweet sound of a ball
off the bat down at the playground. We hope no
one sees us
as we try out the hopscotch
drawn in chalk on the sidewalk,
and we smile from our window
at the father taking training wheels off his
daughter's bike.

We put yesterday out with the garbage and wait for
the delivery of tomorrow, and we discover that
every day is a day of joy,
Spirit of Gladness.

Help us to play with you
each and every day,
God in Community, Holy and One, even as we pray
to you,
each and every day, saying ...

*As our Saviour taught us so we pray,
The Lord's Prayer*

Call to reconciliation:

In a world which teaches us to always be serious, God gives us children who love to make silly faces.

In a world which searches for perfection, God hands us the platypus.

Let us speak to God of our reluctance to be playful, so we can be embraced by the One who was willing to put aside divine dignity to become one of us.

Prayer of forgiveness:

God of wonder,
you take mud, add a little water –
and make mountains,
while we worry about getting our clothes dirty playing outside.

You nourish your creation with refreshing rain,
and we grumble about having left our umbrellas at home.

You grin at the sight of squirrels chasing each other up and down trees,
and we can't remember the last time we lay down on the grass,
trying to guess what the clouds up in the sky look like.

Forgive us,
Imagination behind creation,
for forgetting to enjoy, to laugh, to play.
We take ourselves so seriously
that we lose sight of the wonder of your gifts.

We think you want us to be so proper all the time,
and so we have forgotten the joy, the laughter, the delight
which Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,
brought into our lives.

Silence

Assurance of pardon:

The good news is this:
imagination and play go hand in hand with prayer, with
service, with worship, with life.
God takes delight when we take the time to enjoy and play
in
the good creation offered to us.
Amen

Bible Reading: Mark 5.35 to end Short Address

Great prayer of thanksgiving:

God be with you.
And also with you.
Open your hearts.
We open them to God.
Say 'thank you' to God.
We always want to thank God for everything.

Bunnies and butterflies,
dogs with muddy feet,
cats with whiskers that tickle,
frogs that jump a long way,
worms that inch along the sidewalk.

You made all this –
and so much more:

skies so blue we want to dive in,
fluffy clouds so soft and white,
mums who hold us when we are scared, dads
who throw us high into the air. You made all
this –
and so, so much more –
for us!

Thank you, God.
And hear as we sing with the angels and all
your children:

Sanctus (David Phelps)

God, you loved your child, Jesus,
and could have kept him close to you.
But you sent him to show us your love.
A little boy, he skinned his knees playing,
and liked his mum and dad to read him stories.

A teenager, he felt sort of clumsy, and
wondered what he would do when he grew up.

When he got older,
he was a friend to people who felt no one liked
them;

he loved the people everybody else picked
on; he would gather up kids in his lap,
and tell them how much God loved them.

Then he died,
for his friends
and for those who didn't like him.

That's when God,
who loved his child so much, brought him
back to life,
just as God will give us new life when we die.

Spirit of God,
you blow through the trees, making the leaves
dance; you cool us off
on a hot summer day;
you whisper in our ears about God's dreams
for us.

As we eat this bread and drink this wine let us
be one with you and all our young people.
Show us how to love and nurture them.
through our example and care may they come
to know the joy of knowing you in their lives.

So come now,
and make this bread we are about to eat taste
so good we want
to share it with all our young people.

Make the wine in the cup so sweet and pure
that we want to go out
and tell them and show them
how much God loves them.

The body of Christ The blood of Christ

Thank you, Jesus, for loving us so much;
thank you, Holy Spirit, for helping us so much; thank you, God,
for being with us,
now and always.

Amen

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your
hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God Almighty and
of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God
Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be amongst you and
remain with you always.

Amen

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