

Graduation...

Honoring the beauty and perfection that dwells within each Child.

Create a service that celebrates each child & teen in your program and honors your dedicated teachers. This service can be presented as a special Sunday service or can be done as a youth lesson.

Created by Rev. Diane Venzera

Materials needed

- *Certificates for the children*
- *Certificates for the teachers*
- *Candles for the teachers and older children*
- *Mini flashlights for the younger children*
- *Christ Candle*
- *Copies of "A Prayer for our Children" for each person in the congregation.*

How It Worked

- We first created certificates printed on decorative paper for the children (samples on the following pages) We left the names blank since we never know which children will be here and we filled them in as the children arrived.
- We created cards with the dedication on it for the teachers to read and certificates of commitment for the teachers to sign.
- The room was set up a large candle for each teacher with a Christ candle in the center. The candles/lights for the children were in a basket on the side. The certificates were also on the table.
- Once everyone had arrived I began by sharing a reading to set the tone. We then called each teacher up individually. As they came forward they lit a candle and received the card with the dedication on it. Once all the teachers were standing in the front they were invited to read the dedication together.
- Next we called the children one by one (we used the certificates to call them up in random order) to come up, light their candle and receive their certificate and then stand with their teacher.
- When that was completed we invited the congregation to join us in reading, "A Prayer for Our Children." The minister then closed with a special blessing.
- We then all enjoyed an Ice Cream Social.

OPENING READING - TO THE CONGREGATION

Teaching is a consecrated service. Not only an understanding of Truth, but also a sincere effort to live Truth, is essential in those who would aspire to bring into expression the inherent divine qualities of children. The primal aim of all teaching, particularly of spiritual teaching, is to draw out the divine nature that is inherent in the child.

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.

STATEMENT OF DEDICATION THE TEACHERS READ

Rev. Stephen Towles, Seattle Unity

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

That I bring this to conscious awareness within myself.
That I consciously and willingly let Divine Mind work in and through me.
That I consciously and willingly let Divine ideas work in and through me.
That I consciously and willingly let Your will not mine be done.

*I now ask that the Christ spirit within me:
Enable me to teach with wisdom, for I help to shape the mind.
Equip me to teach with Truth, for I help to shape the conscience.
Encourage me to teach with vision, for I help to shape the future.
Empower me to teach with love, for I help to shape the world.*

I _____, now dedicate myself to the children of
(Your Church Name) and to the children of the world. Amen!

INVITE THE CONGREGATION TO SHARE THIS PRAYER

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN

Rev. Stephen Towles, Seattle Unity

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

STATEMENT OF DEDICATION

REV. STEPHEN TOWLES, SEATTLE UNITY

**I AM LIGHTING THIS CANDLE AS A SYMBOL OF LIGHTING
THE LIGHT THAT IS WITHIN ME.**

**THAT IT MAY SHINE FORTH, GIVING OUT LOVE, PEACE,
WISDOM, COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING.**

**THAT I BRING THIS TO CONSCIOUS AWARENESS
WITHIN MYSELF.**

**THAT I CONSCIOUSLY AND WILLINGLY LET DIVINE MIND
WORK IN AND THROUGH ME.**

**THAT I CONSCIOUSLY AND WILLINGLY LET DIVINE IDEAS
WORK IN AND THROUGH ME.**

**THAT I CONSCIOUSLY AND WILLINGLY LET YOUR WILL NOT
MINE BE DONE.**

***I NOW ASK THAT THE CHRIST SPIRIT WITHIN ME:
ENABLE ME TO TEACH WITH WISDOM, FOR I HELP TO
SHAPE THE MIND.***

***EQUIP ME TO TEACH WITH TRUTH, FOR I HELP TO SHAPE
THE CONSCIENCE.***

***ENCOURAGE ME TO TEACH WITH VISION, FOR I HELP TO
SHAPE THE FUTURE.***

***EMPOWER ME TO TEACH WITH LOVE, FOR I HELP TO SHAPE
THE WORLD.***


**I _____, NOW DEDICATE MYSELF TO THE
CHILDREN OF UNITY AND TO THE CHILDREN OF THE
WORLD. AMEN!**



CHILD OF LIGHT

BY MAY ROWLAND


CHILD OF LIGHT, I BLESS YOU
I THINK OF YOU, I PRAY FOR YOU.




NOT IN TERMS OF WHAT I THINK YOU NEED
OR WHAT I THINK YOU SHOULD DO OR BE.

I LIFT UP MY THOUGHTS ABOUT YOU.
I CATCH A NEW VISION OF YOU.

I SEE YOU AS A CHILD OF LIGHT.
I SEE YOU GUIDED AND DIRECTED BY AN INNER SPIRIT,
THAT LEADS YOU UNERRINGLY ONTO THE PATH THAT IS
RIGHT FOR YOU!



I SEE YOU WHOLE AND STRONG.
I SEE YOU CONFIDENT AND COURAGEOUS.
I SEE YOU BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS.
I SEE YOU CAPABLE AND SUCCESSFUL.
I SEE YOU FREE FROM LIMITATION OR BONDAGE
OF ANY KIND.



CHILD OF LIGHT, I BLESS YOU!



This Certificate is presented to:



In CELEBRATION of your
Spiritual Light!

