

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA

COMMISSION ON YOUTH

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UNITED  
NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL  
YOUTH DAY

2014  
MENTAL  
HEALTH  
MATTERS

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

AUGUST 12, 2014

THEME

YOUTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

**Opening (In Silent meditation, a person read this out)**

Within most of us there is a mourning,  
an empty space which was once filled  
or which we expected to fill,  
a sense of ourselves which is no longer there,  
a way of being and living which has gone.  
Within us there is a loss,  
a grieving for something held precious.  
In this moment we claim the dignity of our human journey,  
our travelling with a grief.  
In self-respect we claim it for ourselves  
and in compassion, we honour it in others.  
In faith, we lay it before a loving God.  
It is like a white light which burns within us  
in the dignity of our living.

**Call to Worship:**

Come, Let us Worship God who is with us and who will be with us  
one who is strong and who did not care to even become weak  
one whom we think we can comprehend yet cannot comprehend  
one who is different from us and who is also like us  
Let us worship God, who journeys with us both in our weakness and in our strengths

**OPENING HYMN**

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your  
love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in  
you.

**Chorus:**

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

**Chorus:**

Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal  
life.

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

**HOMILY: Towards an Inclusive Community**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Leader:** We confess that we are still uninformed about mental illness and how it impacts person and their families.

**Response:** At times, because of our lack of knowledge and understanding we find ourselves separated from our sisters and brothers with mental illness, their families and ourselves.

**Leader:** There are lines drawn between us because we tend to define wholeness and normality

**Response:** Because of our lack of knowledge we live cut off from sources of strength and power that would help us be present amidst people with mental illness.

**All:** O God, our liberation and shalom, we seek the power of your Spirit, that we may live in fuller union with you, ourselves and our sisters and brothers with mental illness. Also grant that we may gain courage to love and understand each other. Help us to affirm and acknowledge their skills and talents Amen.

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.  
And Grace, my fears relieved.  
How precious did that Grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far  
and Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me.  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease;  
I shall profess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

**Leader:** We pray for those who are affected by illness, anguish and pain.

**Response:** Be with them

**Leader:** Grant courage to those who are struck by mental illness.

**Response:** Enable them to have courage

**Leader:** Grant strength to the families and friends who give their loving care, support and help.

**Response:** Strengthen them.

**Leader:** Grant wisdom to those educating themselves about mental illness.

**Response:** Inform them.

**Leader:** Grant perseverance to those in search of compassionate care and treatment.

**Response:** Inspire them.

**Leader:** Grant clarity of vision and strength of purpose to the leaders of our institutions and our government. May they be moved to act with justice. May we all find the courage to overcome fear and ignorance.

**Response:** Guide them.

**Leader:** Today, we especially ask that you be with the youth with a mental illness. Help us to make efforts that are needed to overcome stigma to ensure that young people with mental health conditions can lead full and healthy life free from isolation and enforced shame.

**Response:** Guide us as we show them love and care.

**All:** God, help people to respect persons with mental illness and their families rather than to ignore or pit them. In difficult conditions, be with us all. In times of intense emotions, grant us calm that we may know your peace. In the light, grant us awareness that all may know your love. Unite us as caregivers, family members, students and pastors. Amen.

Bless, guide and heal us. We pray in the name of Jesus, who has shown us the way. Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

God, hold us and our loved ones who live with emotional and mental illness  
Give us courage to face our difficulties and to overcome fear  
Assist us to walk humbly and act justly and love tenderly every day  
Give knowledge to understand mental illness, Give us strength to advocate for Just and compassionate treatment and services  
Grant us hope in communities that care and trust. Give us inspiration as we go from this place proclaiming love and healing for all  
Spirit of Life, bless us and keep us always. Amen

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Most of the elements of the worship order are adapted from  
[http://www.shadowvoices.com/topics/Worship\\_Resources.asp](http://www.shadowvoices.com/topics/Worship_Resources.asp)

### **History of International Youth Day:**

The United Nation' (UN) International Youth day is celebrated on August 12 each year to recognize efforts of the World's youth in enhancing global society. It also aims to promote ways to engage them in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities. The idea of International Youth Day was proposed in 1991 by young people who were gathered in Vienna, Austria, for the first session of the UN's World Youth Forum. The forum recommended that an International Youth Day be declared, especially for fundraising and promotional purposes, to support the United National Youth Fund in partnership with youth Organizations. In 1998 a resolution proclaiming August 12 as International Youth Day was adopted during the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth. That recommendation was later endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 1999. International Youth day was first observed in 2000.