A prayer for International Youth Day 2024

Uniting Church in Australia President Rev Charissa Suli

Loving and Gracious God,

On this International Youth Day, we come together to celebrate and uplift young people across the globe, who are at the forefront of a rapidly changing world. We thank you for their creativity, energy, and the passion they bring to addressing the challenges of our time.

As we embrace this year's theme, "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development," we pray for our young people as they lead the way in harnessing digital technology to create sustainable solutions for our world's most pressing challenges. May they continue to drive progress, using innovation and technology to advance the Sustainable Development Goals and build a better future for all.

We lift up the urgent concerns that weigh on the hearts of our youth—the need to protect the environment, the fight against inequity and discrimination, the uncertainties of the economy, and the mental health challenges many face. Grant them the courage and wisdom to lead with vision and compassion, helping us all move toward a more just and sustainable world.

We are mindful of the growing concerns around housing and homelessness, especially as these issues increasingly affect young people. Inspire us to work together for solutions that ensure everyone has a safe and stable place to call home.

In the digital age, where social media, body image, bullying, and intimate relationships can be both empowering and overwhelming, remind our young people of your unwavering love that welcomes them just as they are. May they find their worth and identity in you, a love that holds them close and gives them strength to navigate these challenges with grace and resilience.

We pray for those who feel isolated, lonely, or burdened by stress. Surround them with a community of care and support, and help our churches be places where young people can find belonging, purpose, and peace.

God, as our youth continue to pave the way from clicks to real progress, help us to listen, value their insights, and support their dreams. May the Uniting Church in Australia be a community where young people are empowered to lead, innovate, and create sustainable solutions that advance your kingdom on Earth.

May we all work together to weave Christ's love across cultures and boundaries, creating a tapestry of hope for present and future generations to come.

Amen.