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Christ Presbyterian Devotes Rites to Youth

Obsessions overwhelmed Presbyterians yesterday at Christ Presbyterian Church.

And they accomplished the feat despite the pastor's comment that Presbyterians are often "stodgy and frozen."

The occasion was "Youth Sunday," and participants were the "Obsessions," a five-piece rock and roll group which played during the morning worship service.

In place of the usual sermon, Rev. Robert Booher, senior pastor, presented "reactions," each with a Biblical source, between each number.

He introduced the special worship with words from Psalm 33: "Praise the Lord with harp: sing unto Him with psaltery and praise. Sing unto Him a new song: play skillfully with a loud noise . . ."

Reminding the congregation that there are many ways to worship, the Rev. Mr. Booher said, "I suspect those of you who think this is sacreligious would have thought the same thing in the temple in David's time. We brought this group in so we may use the modern teen-age way to worship God."

Use of the rock and roll combo also reminds them to take youth seriously, he observed, adding that too often adults dismiss them with "It's a stage they're going through" or "it's a sign of the times."

The music and its words, he said, contain the message young people are trying to convey to the world today.

Among the selections performed were "Stand By Me," which the Rev. Mr. Booher said points to the importance youth places on relationships between people, and "Hang On Sloopy," a protest against class distinction.

RELIGION A GO-GO — Contemporary music was a part of worship yesterday at the Christ Presbyterian Church. The Obsessions are, from the left, David Hucks, Ralph Williams Jr., James Myhers, Dennis Marinilli and Corky Zak, at the organ.

February 1966 - The Obsessions

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