

MYC 2015  
Worship Liturgy  
Theta Weeks

WL=Worship Leader

## Monday

Stage: Baptismal font highlighted; water in vessels around the stage  
Special event: Baptism renewal

### **Processional (2 JP)**

*Bring two pitchers of water. The two pour water into font simultaneously.*

### **Call to Worship (1 JP)**

WL: Please remain seated during the Call to Worship until you identify with a group that is mentioned. Once you are standing, please remain standing and continue reading the call with me.

WL: If you have red hair, stand to worship God.

**WL+: If you graduated high school this year, join in standing to worship.**

**WL+: We invite everyone who loves skateboarding to stand and worship.**

**WL+: If this is your first Montreat Youth Conference, stand to worship God.**

**WL+: If this is your last Montreat Youth Conference, join in standing to worship.**

**WL+: If you will be starting a new school next year, stand to worship God.**

**WL+: We invite everyone who has a brother or sister to join us in standing to worship.**

**WL+: If you are sitting by one of your friends, please stand to worship God.**

*Liturgy continues until everyone is standing.*

## **Confession & Pardon (2 JP)**

*1 JP WL come and look into the font, sad, shaking head, eventually turning away while liturgy is read.*

WL: We are created in the image of God, but we do not always see ourselves that way.

**All: Forgive us, Lord, for not seeing you when we look at ourselves or others.**

**Instead we see:**

**Not beautiful enough**

**Not smart enough**

**Not popular enough**

**Not graceful enough**

**Not athletic enough**

**Not skinny enough**

**All: Forgive us, Lord.**

WL: Thankfully, God sees us for who we are, and knows that we are enough. In the waters of baptism, we are washed clean and made new, each and everyday.

*Person at the font turns back and scoops and pours water with hands.*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Passing the Peace**

WL: The peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

*People share the peace of Christ.*

## **Scripture (1 JP/No JP)**

Psalm 8 Video

Matthew 3:13-17- Preachers read??

## **Proclaim (3+ JP)**

Nelsons Preach

Acting Team: 3 characters

## **Respond**

Renewal of Baptism - Brad will write this!!

## Go

Benediction

Exit Music: Joan Osborne 'What if God were one of us?'

## Tuesday

Stage:

Special: Offering

### Processional (3 JP)

*Bring in Bible.*

*Bring two pitchers of water. The two pour water into font simultaneously.*

### Call (1 JP)

(By Rochelle A. Stackhouse in *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship* edited by Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria I. Tirabassi)

WL: Please stand and join me in the Call to Worship.

[pause]

In caring and compassion, God's arms hold us when we are weak.

**All: With ideas and inspiration, God pushes us to grow and thrive.**

WL: With divine generosity, God shares all creation with us.

**All: God calls us as partners to build a world of joy and hope.**

WL: Let us join our hearts, hands and voices with people the world over in praise, thanksgiving, and commitment to our one, our wondrous God.

### Confession and Pardon (1 JP)

#### Call to Confession

WL: When we look just at ourselves, our friends and family, we see only a narrow slice of the richly hued world God created. Open our eyes, Lord, as we confess our sins, to see each person in the world as your child.

#### Confession

**Holy God,**

**You created each one of us as individuals, beautiful and unique.**

**We confess that we put on blinders that help us judge  
anyone who doesn't**

**look**     *(Individual slides for these one liners!)*

**dress**

**talk or**

**walk**

like us.

**We would rather treat our neighbors, our**  
**Black neighbors**      *(Individual slides for these one liners!)*  
**Hispanic neighbors**  
**Muslim neighbors**  
**Old neighbors**  
**Disabled neighbors**  
**Weird neighbors**  
**Gay neighbors**

**like our culture tells us to: with indifference, cruelty, and even hate.**

**Help us to love our neighbors with a transforming love.**  
**A love that breaks down walls and builds up hope. Amen.**

### **Pardon**

WL: Hear the good news: In Christ, we are all new creations. In Christ, we see examples of real ways to love that will bring transformation. Let us live our lives in Christ and be forgiven.

**All: AMEN!!** *(please shout it out)*

### **Passing the Peace**

WL: The peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

*People share the peace of Christ.*

**Scripture** (1 JP)? *It depends on what the Nelsons want done. I suggest enlivening the John passage in some way since it's so long.*

Genesis 10:20-28

John 4:5-39

### **Proclaim** (2 JP)

Nelsons Preach

Acting Team: 2 characters

### **Respond** (2 JP)

Prayers of the People: We Give Thanks for An Ordinary Day by Sue Henley (*Before the Amen*)

JP1 God calls us to give thanks for the simple, overlooked luxuries of our daily lives. Please respond with me...

We give thanks for water, refreshing, cleansing,  
**All And pray for those who have no running water.**

JP2 We give thanks for electricity, to make our morning tea and coffee,  
for the refrigerator, the hairdryer,  
**All: And pray for the coffee farmers, for fair trade, for those with no electricity.**

JP1: As we drop trash into the bin and go to the dumpster,  
**Left: We pray for those who seek food in dumpsters, or hide in them to keep warm.**

JP2 As we give our pets water and food, we delight in their presence  
**Right And pray for animals who are neglected, whose habitat is being destroyed.**

JP1 As we inhale the beauty of the mountains and trees,  
**Front We pray for the places of strip mining and deforestation.**

JP2 As we get in our cars, we give thanks for transportation,  
**Back And pray for those who walk, for injustices in our world created around oil.**

JP1 As our families drive to work, we give thanks that they have work,  
**Men And we pray for the unemployed.**

JP2 We give thanks for friends who visit, sharing a simple meal,  
**Girls And pray for the friendless and those who always eat alone.**

JP1 As we go to bed, we give thanks for rest, for a place called home,  
**All And we pray for those who live in shelters, whose homes are destroyed  
by war and violence. And we give thanks for another Ordinary Day. Amen.**

**Go**

Benediction

Exit Music: VaShawn Mitchell- Nobody Greater

## **Wednesday**

**Stage:** Loom & Basket (for fabric strips) set up in an unobtrusive (but seen) place.  
Table for communion. One loaf of bread, cup and pitcher are already set. Table is  
bare  
otherwise.

**Special events:** Communion.

Weaving throughout the service. I see the weavers being youth (non-JP) who sign up  
to participate this way. Would need a bit of rehearsal time.

*The weaving shows how we are intertwined, and how when God weaves our stories together*

*we create something beautiful. It's also a visual reminder of stories that have been silenced- that they are still a part of the tapestry.*

### **Processional (5 JP)**

*Bring in fabric strips to be woven (2) Wave them like streamers.*

*Bring in Bible.*

*Bring two pitchers of water. The two pour water into font simultaneously.*

### **Call (1 JP + 1 weaver)**

WL: Please stand and join me in the call to worship.

God in the midst, be among us tonight.

**All: God of the silenced, hear the voices that tremble to speak.**

WL: God of the struggle, comfort us through our pain.

**All: God ever-present, listen to your children.**

### **Confession & Pardon (1 JP + 3 weavers)**

#### **Call to Confession**

WL: It is easy in the midst of difficulty and pain to think we are alone, and that we have to fix situations ourselves. Let us confess together our sins, assured that we are not alone.

#### **Confession**

**O Lord,**

**You know what it's like to be us.**

**You became human like us, and you know the joys of companionship  
and the sorrow of loneliness.**

**And yet, still too often we think we are alone in our struggles.**

**We think there's no one to depend on,**

**We think there's no one who sympathizes with our weakness.**

**Forgive us when we do not turn to you,**

**and remind us that nothing can separate us from you.**

**Amen.**

#### **Pardon**

WL: Reach out and touch someone with your right hand. Reach out and touch someone else with your left hand. Know that each of these people has felt alone before. Know that we are all connected, and God is intertwined with us. Know this and be at peace.

#### **Passing the Peace**

WL: The peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

*People share the peace of Christ.*

\*\*\*Brad, write Prayer for Illumination\*\*\*

## **Scripture** (3 JP)

Romans 8:37-39

- Echo reading

## **Sermon** (1 JP +6-8 weavers- finishing weaving and taking it off loom)

Nelsons Preach

Acting Team: 1 JP

## **Respond**

Smokey Norful: Thank you for my life

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXPaCWqXLpE>)

- During this time, the weaving is placed on the Communion Table
- Communion servers have elements with them in their seats (is this even possible?!) and spontaneously they get up and place their element on the table, then go and stand at the back of the stage.

## **Communion**

**Invitation - Jenny, Gail, James**

### **Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

(Communion Liturgy taken from *Finding Words for Worship* by Ruth C. Duck, adapted by Jo Nygard Owens)

WL: God is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

WL: Let us open our hearts.

**All: We open our hearts to God and one another.**

WL: Let us give thanks.

**All: We thank God with joy.**

WL: Holy God, our loving Creator,  
we thank you for your constant love for all you have made.  
Your breath gives us life;  
your word bring new life out of death.  
You call us from separation and sin  
to a joyful like of communion with you  
and all your creatures.  
With all people and all creation, we sing your praise:

***Sanctus*** (Holy, Holy, Holy—GTG #595—either in English or Spanish)

WL: Holy God, we see and touch your Word in Jesus Christ,  
who took our form and knows us,  
who knows the joy and sorrow of being human,  
who ate with the outcast, the geek, the unpopular,  
who died among sinners,  
and who lives with us still.

Holy God, pour out your Spirit on us,  
that we may know Christ in the breaking of bread,  
that we may be intertwined in the sharing of the cup,  
and that in word and deed we may be channels of your love, peace, and justice in the  
world.  
Help us remember this each time we say the words Christ taught us:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever. Amen.**

WL: Praise to you Creator God,  
in Jesus Christ who lives among us,  
and the Holy Spirit, who binds us together in love. Amen.

## **Go**

Benediction

Exit Music:

## **Thursday**

Stage: Table front

Special event:

### **Processional (5 JP)**

*Bring in fabric strips to be woven (2 people) Wave them like streamers.*

*Bring in Bible.*

*Bring two pitchers of water. The two pour water into font simultaneously.*

## **Call**



For the Call, Confession, and Affirmation I want to take the words of the week's participants and weave them together. Words/phrases can be gathered through sheets in the lobby and/or FB/Twitter. Another option might be to video record youth answering this question and assemble them into a *very* short video montage.

**Prompt:** If you had to pick a word or short phrase to describe your story, what would it be? I like this concept and would be happy to assist in collecting and assembling words/phrases for a call to worship. I can imagine the call to worship might look something like this:

### **Call to Worship:**

**JP1:** Our stories are messy.

**JP 2:** Our stories are different.

**JP 3:** Mostly, our stories matter.

**JP1:** All of our stories are worth listening to.

**[Pause as the words/phrases from FB/Twitter/graffiti sheets show up as a word montage on the screen—or show video recorded answers, if go that route]**

**JP2:** Our stories are unfinished. God has more to say.

**JP 3:** Even as our lives twist and turn, God is with us every step of the way.

**All: Come, let us worship God, the author of our lives.**

### **Confession & Pardon**

For the confession, some JP members will accompany the spoken prayer liturgical with movement around the baptismal font. The JP's will utilize the fabric strips from the previous night's worship.

**Call to Confession:** No matter where our stories take us, God is with us in the messy, dark corners of our world. Yet, sometimes we forget that God is near. Sometimes we ignore God's claim on our lives and we act in ways that defy God's hope for our world.

Keeping our eyes open, let us openly confess the ways we fail to live out God's story:

#### **Prayer of Confession:**

**[As they begin, two JP's move toward font. One is guiding the other who has long piece of fabric wrapped around his/her eyes. Slowly, the other helps untie the fabric and they place the strip of fabric into the font].**

**JP1:** Holy God, though we come with good intentions, we are often blind.

**JP2:** We are blind to the silent suffering of our friends and to the suffering we cause others to feel.

**JP3:** We are blind to the shadows cast by racism, unwilling to confront them until it's too late.

**JP1:** We are blind to the pollution we make worse, ignoring communities affected by rising tides, droughts and smog.

**All: Holy God, help us see.**

**[Two JP's move toward font. One has his/her fists tied up by the fabric. The other helps him/her unravel the fabric and place it in font].**

**JP2:** God of grace, though we want to do your good work, sometimes we feel like our hands are tied.

**JP3:** Instead of volunteering to help others, we reach for our video games, cell phones, and computers.

**JP1:** Instead of reaching out to people who might be hurting, we shy away, unwilling to take the risk.

**JP2:** Instead of offering our gifts to the world, we hold back, worried that we aren't good enough.

**All: Holy God, set us free.**

**[Two JP's move toward font. One has fabric wrapped around his/her mouth. The other helps him/her untie the fabric and place it in font].**

**JP 3:** God of love, though you call us to tell others of your grace, we too often keep our mouths shut.

**JP1:** When we have opportunities to speak about our faith, we hesitate, worried about what people might think.

**JP2:** When we see bullying or injustice, we keep silent to avoid becoming targets too.

**JP3:** When we need to speak the truth, we bite our tongues because sometimes the truth is too hard to say.

**All: Holy God, speak through us.**

**JP1:** God of all, when we are blind, give us sight. When we are tied up, set us free. When we are silent, give us words to speak. Even when we are trapped, we offer our lives to you. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

(spoken while splashing water in the font)

Here, in these holy waters, we unravel all of our tattered and torn pieces. Here, in front of our God, we are safe to admit where we are broken and have caused others to break. Here, in the promise of our baptism, we offer all we are to God.

Here is where we remember that, no matter what, God is still with us, still washing us clean and giving us new stories to live out.

Hear and accept this good news:

**All: In Christ, we are forgiven.**

## **Passing the Peace**

WL: The peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

*People share the peace of Christ.*

**Scripture** (3 JP)? *Just depends on what the Nelsons plan to do for this part.*

Genesis 16 & 21 (**Abraham**, Sarah and Hagar)

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

## **Sermon**

Nelsons Preach

Acting Team: 1 JP???

## **Respond- Affirmation of Faith**

I will use the same responses to the prompts for Call & Confession and weave them together differently. The faith we confess is not perfect; it's messy and still being worked out.

Not sure what Jo's exact plan is for this. Here's a potential affirmation of faith I've written (focused on bodies to correspond with the Nelsons' sermon topic).

(Can be corporate prayer, or split up by JP)

*In the beginning, God knit us into the womb of the world, calling us good.  
Our bodies are temples. We are sacred vessels.  
Yet, like Adam and Eve, we are curious and wandering.  
Sometimes we forget our sacred roots and abuse our bodies.  
We think we aren't worth anything at all.  
But, through Christ, God became flesh, to feel, to breathe, to rejoice, and to suffer.  
Because of Christ, there is nowhere God can't or won't go.  
On the cross, Christ suffered abuse and died.  
And then he rose,  
Breaking the world open with new life.  
Through Christ, we are set free.  
No abuse, or mistake, or violence is beyond God's reach.  
Even death has been conquered.  
We are freed to live and to love, knowing that God goes with us.  
Our bodies are temples. We are sacred vessels.  
We give ourselves to God's good work. Amen.*

**Go**

Benediction

Exit Music: My God is Awesome by Charles Jenkins

# Friday

Stage: Table (with weaving), font

Special event: Sticky note mosaic ?!?!?

Candlelight following service

Supplies: 2000+ sticky notes, pencils, 4 drawings with color areas labeled (see section for more instructions)

## Processional (10 JP)

*Bring in candles (2).*

*Bring in bread, pitcher, and cup.*

*Bring in fabric strips (2) Wave them like streamers.*

*Bring in Bible.*

*Bring two pitchers of water. The two pour water into font simultaneously.*

## Call

WL: Tonight's Call to Worship is a bit more interactive than usual. You will be prompted to call out where your back home group is from, you will be invited to give praise to God in a free-form way, and you will be invited to move your hands like this:

*WL demonstrates lifting arms overhead and looks up. Hands come together (as in prayer) and lower (eyes following), until the prayer hands rest at heart level.*

as we prepare ourselves for worship.

WL: We gather tonight from east and west, from north and south.

**Right:** We come from \_\_\_\_\_.

**Left:** We come from \_\_\_\_\_.

**Front:** We come from \_\_\_\_\_.

**Back:** We come from \_\_\_\_\_.

WL: We gather to sing, dance, speak, rap, illustrate our love of God.

**All:** ***You are invited to give praise to God in the manner of your choosing.***

WL: We gather in God's presence to worship.

All: *Prayer hands movement.*

## Confession & Pardon

### Invitation to Confession

WL: We come before God this night, changed by our week here. We want to hold on to these changes, but we fear they will be lost in the everydayness of life. Let us pray together.

### Prayer of Confession

**God of compassion,**

**We confess that it is easy to be your people at Montreat.  
We know what to say and do.  
We trust that others will be kind,  
And we fear rejection if we do the same things at home.  
Forgive us for our fear,  
give us courage to continue writing your story and our story  
even in our homes, our schools, and our churches. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

WL: Who is in a position to condemn us if we mess up? Only Christ.  
And Christ loves us so much he lived for us, he died for us, he was raised for us, and even  
now he reigns in heaven for us. Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **Passing the Peace**

WL: The peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

*People share the peace of Christ.*

### **Scripture (12 JP)**

Matthew 28:16-20

- One JP reads the scripture
- As the scripture is read, the other 11 JP come from back stage and the audience to stand at the edge of the stage. They bend down and pick up two long red ribbons (~3').
- Once the reading is over, the JP youth walk down the steps and into the congregation waving the ribbons while pretty instrumental music is played by our music leaders.

2 Corinthians 1:18-25

### **Sermon**

Nelsons Preach

Acting Team: ?? JP

### **Respond- Sticky Note Mosaics**

*Someone with art skills will draw 4 images from the week on pieces of bulletin board paper. Each section on the paper should be labeled with a color corresponding to colors of sticky notes that we have.*

WL: The story of God did not end when the Bible was put together. Countless women, men, youth, and children have continued to participate in and shape the story. Each of us

has a part in continuing the story. But it does take all of us to make it come alive. How will you share God's story and your story back at home?

Once you've thought of an answer or two or three, write your idea on a sticky note which can be found at the end of your pew. Once you have finished your ideas please join us in silent reflection on this week and how we can continue to serve back home.

## **Go- Candlelight - Outside**

Candlelight Service:

### **Music:**

*Down To The River To Pray*

*Light the Fire*

*Amazing Grace / Alleluia*

*Come Thou Fount*

*Sanctuary*

*This little Light of Mine*

### **Liturgy:**

#### **Ashley-Anne:**

In the darkness, God's light shines. As we look out and around us, we see blinking lights and shimmering reflections. We see a circle that is wide and connected. We see our family of faith—this is a diverse and growing family. This is a family where we all belong.

#### **Gail:**

As you look out to your left, remember all that you left behind to be here this week—Family, friends, the comfort of your own bed.

Remember how you felt when the week began— excited, maybe with a little fear, hopeful, or worried that it wouldn't be very fun.

#### **James:**

As you look out to your right, think about all that you have gained this week—

The friends you have made in unexpected places,

In small group, at rec events, or while rock-hopping in the creek...

All you have learned,

From keynote, from worship, and from late-night conversations with your back home groups...

All the times you have been challenged and pushed outside of your comfort zone...

To do something you wouldn't normally do, or to think about a situation in a new way...

**J Herbert:**

As you look across the circle, think about all that you want to take with you from this place—

The memories, the friendships, the stories you have heard and have shared. Think about all the ways our stories are woven together and intertwined, about all the things we share with our neighbors, even in our differences.

**Jenny:**

As you look up to the sky, remember that, no matter where you go, God goes with you. Your story is unique—your story matters. Even when things get messy, God meets us in the mess. We are never, ever alone.

**Jessie:**

We have shared stories of baptism, of brokenness, of exile. We have looked ourselves in the mirror, and danced with joy at the image of God staring back at us.

**Zach:**

We have heard the message of hope, and are prepared to leave this place, and to put that hope into action.

**Sam:**

And, now, as you look at your own candle, think about all the ways your story is still unfinished.

***THEME SONG 1 - GIORIOUS STORY***

**J Herbert:**

Montreat Staff, Summer Staff, and Support Staff - Please extinguish your candle, and go tell share our story.

**James:**

Back Home Leaders, Small Group Leaders, Please extinguish your candle, and go tell share our story.

**Jessie:**

Leadership and Planning Team - Please extinguish your candle, and go tell share our story.

**Sam:**

Rising Freshmen - Please extinguish your candle, and go tell share our story.

**Gail:**

Rising Sophomores - Please extinguish your candle, and go tell share our story.

**Zach:**

Rising Juniors - Please extinguish your candle, and go tell share our story.

**Jenny:**

Rising Seniors - Please extinguish your candle, and go tell share our story.

**Ashley-Anne:**

Graduated Seniors - As you embark on a new chapter, remember the faith that binds you to your own story - take pride in the pages that hold your past, and embrace the adventure that the next pages hold.

*[Closing Prayer]*

Graduated Seniors - Please extinguish your candle, and go tell share our story.

**William:**

Remember that God still has more to say—our lives are still being written.

**Louisa:**

Think about all the ways you will go out from this place, living and telling God's story.

**Jose:**

And as the lights around this circle fade, we remember that, no matter what, God's light still shines.

**Maggie:**

May God's light shine in each of us and in our world.

**Everyone on the porch:**

AMEN!!



## **Go- Candlelight - Inside**

Candlelight Service:

**Music:**

**Liturgy:**

**Ashley-Anne:**

In the darkness, God's light shines. As we look out and around us, we see blinking lights and shimmering reflections. We see a circle that is wide and connected. We see our family of faith—this is a diverse and growing family. This is a family where we all belong.

**Gail:**

As you look out to your left, remember all that you left behind to be here this week—Family, friends, the comfort of your own bed.

Remember how you felt when the week began— excited, maybe with a little fear, hopeful, or worried that it wouldn't be very fun.

**James:**

As you look out to your right, think about all that you have gained this week—

The friends you have made in unexpected places,

In small group, at rec events, or while rock-hopping in the creek...

All you have learned,

From keynote, from worship, and from late-night conversations with your back home groups...

All the times you have been challenged and pushed outside of your comfort zone...

To do something you wouldn't normally do, or to think about a situation in a new way...

**J Herbert:**

As you look across the circle, think about all that you want to take with you from this place—

The memories, the friendships, the stories you have heard and have shared.

Think about all the ways our stories are woven together and intertwined, about all the things we share with our neighbors, even in our differences.

**Jenny:**

As you look to the flickering candles on stage, remember that, no matter where you go, God goes with you. Your story is unique—your story matters. Even when things get messy, God meets us in the mess. We are never, ever alone.

**Jessie:**

We have shared stories of baptism, of brokenness, of exile. We have looked ourselves in the mirror, and danced with joy at the image of God staring back at us.

**Zach:**

We have heard the message of hope, and are prepared to leave this place, and to put that hope into action.

**Sam:**

And, now, think about all the ways your story is still unfinished.

### ***THEME SONG 1 - GIORIOUS STORY***

*[Commisioning Prayer]*

**William:**

Remember that God still has more to say—our lives are still being written.

**Louisa:**

Think about all the ways you will go out from this place, living and telling God's story.

**Jose:**

And as the lights around this circle fade, we remember that, no matter what, God's light still shines.

**Maggie:**

May God's light shine in each of us and in our world.

**Everyone on the porch:**

AMEN!!