

Monday Liturgy/Worship
Be Different
God uniquely set us apart for God's purpose in the kingdom
Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 9:1-22

OPENING

(on handheld in the back of the aud):
In the beginning...

In the beginning, God.
In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, (Water 1 starts)
the earth was a formless void
darkness covered the face of the deep
and the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters.

*Entrance with water bearer #1 followed by #2, #3, #4 each processing down 4 aisles to stage where
pour water in front and place pitcher on table
House on ½ - stage on full - no spots*

*Lyrics up- on third time on refrain
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
over my head, I hear music in the air;
over my head, I hear music in the air;
there must be a God somewhere.*

God created humankind in God's own image. (Water 2 starts)
and saw that it was very good.
and the Spirit of God moved through the freshly-watered garden,
guiding all creation that was entrusted to human care. POUR WATER #1

*Leader: And when I'm feeling lonely,
People: Hmm, I hear music in the air;
Leader: and when I'm feeling lonely, ,
People: hmm, I hear music in the air;
Leader: and when I'm feeling lonely,
People: hmm, I hear music in the air;
All: there must be a God somewhere.*

In times of difficulty, (Water 3 starts)
when oppression was real,
when God's people longed to be free,
the Spirit of God separated the waters, delivering God's people. POUR WATER #2

*[Sung- choir]
Over my head...*

In desert spaces, (Water 4 starts)
when God's people thirsted for justice,

when they longed for righteousness to rain down like an ever-flowing stream
the Spirit of God revived the people, refreshing their spirits. **POUR WATER #3**

*[Sung- leave slide up]
Over my head...*

In the flowing waters of baptism,
when Jesus stood in the Jordan,
when the early church gathered in homes,
when we gather at the font,
the Spirit of God descended over the waters,
claiming Christ, claiming us, as beloved. **POUR WATER #4**

[Sung]

Leader: Now when I think on Jesus,

People: Hmm, I hear music in the air;

Leader: now when I think on Jesus,

People: hmm, I hear music in the air;

Leader: now when I think on Jesus,

People: hmm, I hear music in the air;

All: there must be a God somewhere.

(Refrain)

(music slide out- cross slide)

When we gather to worship,
in thin places,
in holy spaces,
with longing hearts,
and thirsty souls,
the Spirit of God is poured out among us, calling us to be God's own.
SPLASH WATER into each bowl

SONG: All You Works of God

CALL TO CONFESSION - JP 1 (from pulpit)

God created us in God's own image and called us to be different—unique and beloved creations—equipped to follow God's call in each of our lives. Yet from the very beginning, God's own children set aside their call to live faithfully with God, trusting God to provide. Instead they sought conformity and power.

JP 2 (on handheld from font)

As we heard in Genesis 11, when the people settled together, they were all the same: using the same language and the same words. And they began to build a place for themselves and a name for themselves, conforming so that there was no difference among them as they built a tower to the heavens. But when the Lord saw their desire to be the same, God scattered them abroad, giving them different speech and diversity of place and

space and culture. And they called it Babel because the Lord confused their language and scattered them across the earth.

Like those at Babel, we find ourselves scattered,
unable to see our difference as a gift instead of a threat,
needing to confess our sin.

Like those at Babel, we find God present among us,
able to see us for who we really are,
descending to us to deliver us.

So let us confess our sin.

CONFESSION - 2 JP's at pulpit and at font

One: Creating God, you made us each in your image and called us very good.

All: But we try to conform,
dressing alike,
trying to be cool,
longing to fit in with the crowd.
We struggle to see who we really are.

One: God asks us: who are you?

Pulpit side: I am unique.

Piano side: I am creative.

Pulpit side: I am different.

Piano side: I am ordinary.

All: I am a beloved child of God.

One: Loving God, you claim us while we are still being knit together in our mothers' wombs.
In the waters of baptism, your claim is sealed on our lives.

All: But we want to define ourselves,
filling our minds with doubts and questions,
rejecting God's promises,
wanting to control our own lives.
We fail to trust your claim on us.

One: God asks us: who are you?

Pulpit side: I am a doubter.

Piano side: I am a believer.

Pulpit side: I am certain.

Piano side: I am curious.

All: I am a beloved child of God.

One: Calling God, your Spirit calls us to use our gifts to follow the unique call on each of our lives.

All: But we are easily blinded,
unable to see our own gifts,
uncertain of where we are to go,
tempted to just follow the crowd.
We cannot see that our differences are needed for your call.

One: God asks us: who are you?
Pulpit side: I am a leader.
Piano side: I am a follower.
Pulpit side: I am called by God.
Piano side: I am sent by God.
All: I am a beloved child of God.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

JP from pulpit will serve as liturgist. Several JPs will model the action below on the stage.

Beloved, each of you is made in the image of God. Bearing that image, you are claimed and called as God's own. Bearing that image, you always walk in God's light. Bearing that image, you are always reflecting God's light to others.

To be made in the image of God is to carry with you God's name—Yahweh—in your image. [Hebrew slide] In Hebrew, the name of God is spelled with four letters—yod, hey, vav, hey--read right to left.



Trace the image of God in yourself. The yod follows the shape of the face. The hey forms the shoulders and arms. The vav traces your torso. The final hey forms your hips and legs. Each of you bears God's name in your very being.

Now silently turn to your neighbor. In the space in front of your neighbor, trace the name of God in them. Yod-Hey-Vav-Hey. Your neighbor also bears God's name in their very being.

Now that you are able to see the image of God in yourself and your neighbor, we offer one another God's grace by saying together:

**Made in the image of God,
you are forgiven.**

Sung Peace—Salaam Aleikum (Ghana) *(alternating Arabic and English)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINAT - JP reader 3

Let us pray together for the Spirit to illumine our hearts and minds.

All: Come Holy Spirit.
Shine bright light on your Word and our lives.
Open blind eyes. Unclog our ears.
Startle us. Surprise us. Disturb us. Call us.
Set us on a path to follow you, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Acts 9

Sermon

AFFIRMATION AT THE WATER

Prayer over the Water

We give you thanks, O God, that you nourish and sustain all living things by the gift of water.

Through these waters, we come to know who we are and whose we are
Through flood waters, your servant Noah trusted your power and promise;
Through the waters of the Red Sea, your Israelite children found freedom;
By the waters of Babylon, the exiled cried out for you and
were embraced by their Loving Parent;
Through the stormy seas, your disciples welcomed your calming presence; and
Through baptismal waters, you claim us as your beloved children.

Draw us closer to you, O God, as you call us to these waters.
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon these waters
that they may be a fountain of transformation and rebirth.
Refresh us. Restore us. Renew us,
that all we are and all we will be might begin with this water that gives us life.
May we through your love poured out here know who we are and whose we are, Amen.

Blessing at the Water

Water is a way we encounter the sacredness of God and are reminded of God's blessing on each of us. For many of you, this water may remind you of your baptism. For all of you, this water points you to a God who created, called, delivered, and blessed us with water. Those who thirst for God's love are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, a reminder of your belovedness.

As you feel led, you are invited to peacefully come forward to one of twelve stations in front of your section to receive a blessing with the water from one of your small group leaders. As the cross is marked on your forehead, you will hear God's truest promise to each of you: "you are a beloved child of God." While you wait for the the blessing we invite you to hold each other in song.

12 JP water bearers -approach at end of prayer

12 small group leaders for blessing

Music During the blessing

Come to the Water

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

**Come to the water of Life*

My soul is thirsting for you, O God

*When Procession/Water is **finished**, we sing "Be Thou My Vision"
(music slide "Be Thou My Vision")- sung with organ, no mics needed*

Song - Be Thou My Vision

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: In the beginning, when the rains fell and nourished the earth bringing forth life,
God saw and it was good.

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: In our ordinary days, when we drink water, when we wash our hands,
when we splash our feet in the creek, God sees and calls it good.

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: In this holy place, in a room full of difference, with wet foreheads and refreshed spirits,
God sees everything and everyone and declares that it is *very* good.

All: We give you thanks, O God.

Closing Song: *will repeat with a different word in italics*

God is *good*, all the time.

All the time, God is *good*.

God is *good*, all the time.

All God's people sing "God is *good*."

BENEDICTION

Post-Benediction Song:

Shukuru (echo from morning)

Drumming as people leave

Tuesday Liturgy/Worship
Be the Difference in Your Family
God gifted us with family as the starting point of our journey
Matthew 1:1-16, John 9:1-34

YAV VIDEO

SINGING PRE-SERVICE

a cappella - going to roots

Gloria (Iona)

Lo Yisa Goy (Choir)

Ain't Gonna Let nobody turn me round

Amazing Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP

From stage:

One: We often wonder, "Who is my family? To whom do I belong?"

All: We think first of our parents and siblings,

High voices: grandparents and great grandparents,

Low voices: aunts, uncles, and cousins.

One: We often wonder, "Who is my family? To whom do I belong?"

All: We include our church family,

High voices: adopted parents, step-parents,

Low voices: and friends who are like family.

One: We often wonder, "Who is my family? To whom do I belong?"

All: We come from loving families

High voices: and messy, complicated families,

Low voices: and broken families, and mixed-up families.

One: We gather as a Christian family to worship,
knowing that Jesus asked the same questions.

"Who is my family? To whom do I belong?"

All: Jesus had a long family tree

High voices: full of promise and deliverance,

Low voices: with misfits and adoptions,

Adult voices: betrayal and reunion,

Youth voices: love and hope.

One: And if Jesus' family was bigger and more complicated than we can imagine,

All: then we belong in God's family too.

GENEALOGY OF JESUS

One : As we worship God as a family, let us listen to Jesus' family tree,
which by our adoption in Christ is our family too,
as told in the Gospel of Matthew, the first chapter.

Movement during genealogy:

Genealogy begins with handbell at back -

Reader moves along with the big Christ candle (lighted) -

Two additional readers are throughout the auditorium.

After each set of 14 generations, reader stops and new reader takes over

New bell rings - candle remains constantly moving toward front.

Four "interrupters" are also scattered throughout the auditorium.

They will insert themselves in places where the family tree has an interesting addition

Bells of dischord ring when something is askew in the family tree?

Procession of readers finishes somewhere in the room but not on stage

Ends with a bell tone. Christ candle brought to the stage as song begins.

Reader 1: Abraham was the father of Isaac,
and Isaac the father of Jacob,
and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah

Interrupted by a voice in the crowd:

Father of Perez and Zerah **by Tamar**,

the Canaanite woman who was married, widowed, remarried her husband's
brother, widowed again, faked prostitution, and was saved by her own trickery.

Reader 1 continues : and Perez the father of Hezron,
and Hezron the father of Aram,
and Aram the father of Aminadab...
and Aminadab the father of Nahshon,
and Nahshon the father of Salmon,
and Salmon the father of Boaz...

Interrupted by a second voice in the crowd:

Father of Boaz **by Rahab**,

The prostitute in Jericho that hid Joshua's spies to protect them.

Reader 1 continues: and Boaz the father of Obed

Interrupted by a third voice in the crowd:

The father of Obed **by Ruth!**

the Moabite woman who was widowed and clung to her mother-in-law Naomi's family, converted and married Boaz whom she met while gleaning the fields.

Reader 1 continues: and Obed the father of Jesse,
and Jesse the father of King David.

Reader: And David was the father of Solomon

Interrupted by a fourth voice in the crowd:

David and **the wife of Uriah**, better known as Bathsheba,

The Hittite woman that David caught sunbathing and fell in love with, whose husband Uriah, David had killed on the battlefield.

Reader: and Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
and Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
and Abijah the father of Asaph,
and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat,
and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,
and Joram the father of Uzziah,
and Uzziah the father of Jotham,
and Jotham the father of Ahaz,
and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
and Manasseh the father of Amos,
and Amos the father of Josiah,
and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers,
at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

All 4 interrupters: Deportation and exile!

Reader: And after the deportation to Babylon:
Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel,
and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel,
and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,
and Abiud the father of Eliakim,
and Eliakim the father of Azor,
and Azor the father of Zadok,
and Zadok the father of Achim,
and Achim the father of Eliud,
and Eliud the father of Eleazar,

and Eleazar the father of Matthan,
and Matthan the father of Jacob,
and Jacob the father of Joseph

Interrupter 4: **the husband of Mary, the young woman whom the angel Gabriel called to be the bearer of the Christ child**

Reader: of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

SONG: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we gather as a family at Montreat, it's easy to love each other and to call one another brothers and sisters in Christ. But just like Jesus' family tree, true family is complicated and messy. Trusting that by God's grace we are all already included in God's family, we gather to confess the ways we struggle to be family well. Let us pray:

God, our Holy Parent, we confess that we are not always obedient children. Being part of your family is harder than we think. We are quick to judge rather than love our brothers and sisters. We would rather limit who's in than welcome those different than us. We prefer to remain by ourselves rather than being exposed for who we really are. Like a loving Parent, forgive us. Guide us. Empower us. Expand our field of vision for who belongs, that by welcoming others we too might be welcomed, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear and believe this good news. Each of us has been engrafted into Jesus' family tree, a family much bigger, wider, and messier than we can imagine. In this family, there is nothing you can do to make God love you any more. And there is nothing you can do to make God love you any less. You belong in God's family just as you are.

All: Alleluia, Amen.

Sung Response: God Welcomes All with sung Amen

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.
Amen.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak truth to us as only family can. Speak hope to us as only a loving parent can. Speak joy to us as only a true friend can. Speak your Word to us as only you, our Living God, can.

SCRIPTURE John 9:1-34

JP will read the text in reader's theater:

Narrator

Disciples

Jesus

Neighbors

Blind Man

Pharisees

Parents

SERMON

SONG - For Everyone Born

PRAYER OF THE FAMILY

We gather to pray as a family of faith, connected in obvious and sometimes unexpected ways. Please stand and turn toward the center of the auditorium to face one another as we pray together that we might see the diverse and beautiful faces of those we call family. You are invited to leave your eyes open during the prayer, so that like the blind man we too might see anew. Let us pray.

From center of aud:

Holy God, we give thanks for the ways that you have knit us together as family, connecting the dots not just through blood relatives but through bread broken and love poured out, so that we all might be grafted into your family tree. We give thanks just like Jesus' family tree reaches back to David and Abraham, through exile and disruption, Jesus' family tree also extends outward to reach each and every one of us.

Interrupter 1:

We celebrate that Jesus' family tree includes the blind man who regained his sight, and his parents, and the whiny Pharisees, and the doubting neighbors.

Interrupter 3:

We rejoice that Jesus' family tree includes the school bus driver of X and the youth leader of Y and the friends of Z, and we dare to believe that the family includes both bully who beat up A and A himself.

Interrupter 2:

We give thanks that Jesus' family tree includes B's lab partner, and C's teammate, and the archrival of D, and the classmate of E.

Interrupter 4:

Our eyes are opened so that we can see that Jesus' family tree includes the store clerk at Ingles and the panhandler off I-40, the guy scooping ice cream at Kilwins, and the neighbors who live closeby but have never driven through the Montreat gates, the summer staff who make worship possible and the youth leaders who prepare meals for back home groups.

Interrupter 1:

We yearn for a love wide enough that Jesus' family tree can include those who live according to their gender identity *and* those who have persecuted them, and political leaders who struggle to see eye to eye.

Interrupter 3:

We pray for a family tree that stretches so broadly that it can include Americans and Haitians, Syrians and Afghanis, Indians and Pakistanis, South Africans and Nigerians, Koreans and Japanese and those all across the globe.

From center of aud:

Break down the barriers that prevent us from being family. Empower us to use our voice to testify to the love found when we live as one. Challenge us to see with new eyes the person right in front of us as a brother or sister in Christ. Convict us when we are too quick to judge. Hold your whole family together with the unbreakable bond of love poured out by your Son for us all. It is through Christ our brother that we pray, Amen.

OFFERING

All that we are and that we will be comes from God. To offer our whole selves to God, we offer not just our financial gifts but our prayers and our commitments as well. We will begin the offering with a time of silence. During that time, you are invited to distribute the note cards and pencils at the end of your pew. Begin in prayer by writing down a person or group of people that you will try to include in the family tree to make it more reflective of Jesus' messy, wide, and loving family.

Jesus' family tree is messy, wide and loving.

Who has not belonged that should?

Who is it you feel is left out who should belong?

As the offering plates are passed, you are invited to offer your financial gifts to support Montreat Conference Center and the Young Adult Volunteer program. Doing so supports the church family right here in Montreat and young adults all across the globe. In the same basket, you are also

invited to offer up your prayer card. By adding your prayer card, you are offering to try your best to include that person or group of people in Christ's family. Some of these cards will be incorporated into prayers in worship later in the week.

MUSIC during OFFERING:

We Abide

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray.

For these gifts of money and relationship, we give you thanks, O God. Use these gifts for the furthering of your kingdom here on earth. May our offering of names be just the beginning of our offering of ourselves to expand your family tree toward those who struggle to belong. Continue to knit us together as one body of Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

SONG - Lord, You are Good (You are Holy)

BENEDICTION

SONG - Theme Song, just refrain

Wednesday Liturgy/Worship
Be the Difference in Your Church
God incarnated the church for diversity in the world
Acts 2:1-47a/1 Cor 12, 13, 14

YAV Video

SONG: "Wa wa wa Emimimo"

"TEASER" from Pentecost text spoken to start

"When the Day of Pentecost had come, they were all gathered in one place...and suddenly from heaven there came a sound..."

PROCESSIONAL: Bach,"Come, Holy Spirit"

GOSPEL SONG

Come, O Holy Spirit

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On the day the church was born, the Spirit was free
Adults: young people saw visions, fix next week
Youth: old people dreamt dreams,
All: and all were gathered to worship God.

One: Every time the church is reborn, the fires of the Spirit blow wild.
All: Our imaginations catch fire.
One: The body of Christ moves together in a dance of beauty,
All: where each voice matters and dreams become reality.

One: When this Montreat church was born,
All: the Spirit stirred in each of us.
One: Trusting in the Spirit's power, imagine for a moment what it looks like
when the church is freely worshipping God together.
Silently, think of ONE word to describe your vision of that church by completing
this sentence: God's Spirit-filled church is _____.
You will get to share it in a moment.

One: On that Pentecost day, all those gathered were filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak..."
and each person using their own voice shouted at the same time, have JP start
each line

All: God's Spirit-filled church is __<insert your word here>__!
God's Spirit-filled church is __<insert your word here>__!!!

God's Spirit-filled church is __<insert your word here>__!!!!
Building in volume/intensity.

CONFESSION

The words we just used to describe God's Spirit-filled church are not always the words we would use to describe our own churches. We come before God in confession and praying for the freedom of God's Spirit to transform us as it did the community gathered at Pentecost. Let us pray.

God of fire and freedom, we confess that too often our churches are closed off from the movement of your Spirit. We do not dream big enough, imagine boldly enough, or envision a church wide enough. Our ears hear only the voices we recognize and not the multitude of voices of your church around the world. Forgive us for our lack of vision. Inspire us. Surprise us. Breathe new life into us. Stir in us the desire to make your dreams our reality. Through Christ, with the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ came to make all things new. The Spirit descended to make the church anew. God's grace gives us the vision and the voice to be part of God's new thing here today.

Friends, trust and believe this good news:
in Jesus Christ, we are God's forgiven and new creations!

JOYFUL RESPONSE: "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-21

2 readers (1 for v 1-13, 1 for Peter's Address), voices saying (and hopefully walking around a bit) "I'm so confused" throughout? I'm so confused can go through the first voice reading "they are filled with new wine." Then "Peter" yells "stop! Just stop!" Everyone who is walking around stops. Stands still. Peter voice goes on with "people of judea....." and finishes up story.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our dream for the church today is to _____.

Song: "I Dream of a Church"

Mayenziwe

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

This table is a joyful feast, a holy party,
a spirited celebration of God's good news for you.
This meal delights the senses, refreshes the tongue, and satisfies the soul.
This holy mystery lifts us up to a heavenly feast with God.

And here's the best news: You all are invited!!
Short or tall, thick or thin,
Questioning or sure, seeking or certain,
Young or old, gay or straight, rich or poor,
New to faith or baptized from birth,
YOU are invited!

Jesus handed out invitations to eat together
with sinners and saints,
Pharisees and prostitutes,
disciples and the demon-possessed,
women and men and young people and children alike.
And if Jesus the Christ invited them, he also invites you.

So come to this joyful feast of the people of God.
Come and be filled.
Come and be transformed.
Just come.

Great Thanksgiving

Let us pray.
On the day the church was born, God's people delighted—
they danced and sang,
they dreamed together,
they spoke each with their own voices and all together,
praising Creator, Christ and Spirit together.
On the day the church was born, the earth rejoiced—
fire and wind,
flowing water,
hearty grain and fruit of the vine
creation's finest elements became God's holy presence.
On the day the church was born, God's Spirit descended,
enflaming hearts,
enlivening souls,

envisioning God's kingdom before our very eyes,
stirring all creation to worship.

And so

We give you deep thanks, O God,
celebrating that every time the Spirit moves freely,
your creative and creating work breathes new life into the church and each of us.

We give you deep thanks, O Christ,
rejoicing that your life and ministry,
teaching and healing,
forgiving and reconciling,
dying and rising,
reminds us that death never has the final word.

New life, fresh life, full life is always your story for the church and each of us.

We give you deep thanks, O Spirit,
delighting that your Pentecost fire still burns in the lives of
these young people,
inspiring a new generation of the faithful to share visions and dreams.
Transformation is your promise for the church and each of us.

Gathering at this table, we celebrate that you, Holy God,
are constantly remaking the church.
Make us joyful participants in that remaking.
Feed us with this bread.
Refresh us with this cup.
Satisfy our hungry hearts
that we might be torchbearers in a world looking for good news.

As your Spirit descended that Pentecost day,
descend again here upon this joyful feast,
that by your blessing, we might be witnesses to your church's rebirth,
and participants in your kingdom being made known here on earth.

Through Christ, who taught us how to pray saying....
Our Father....

Lord's Prayer

Distribution of the Elements

Songs during communion:

Come O Holy Spirit

All in All - GTG 519- Eric mic and piano- no Ashley

Alleluia

Spirit of the Living God

As salam

Prayer After Communion

Holy God, we give thanks that you have fed us in this holy meal,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come.
Send us out now to feed a world hungry for your good news.
for Christ's sake, Amen.

Sung Response: Mayenziwe

BENEDICTION

SONG TO PROCESS OUT

Come, O Holy Spirit

Thursday Liturgy/Worship
Be the Difference in Your Peers
God calls us into relationship because God IS relationship
John 21:1-19/ Psalm 8/Job 2 & 16

Recap:

Goal is to provide a more centering/contemplative service with three moves:

Christ shows up in the ordinary

Christ feeds us (breakfast!)

Christ calls us to let go & love

OPENING MUSIC

“Sanctuary”

GATHERING BREATH PRAYER

The Psalmist writes, “Be still and know that I am God.” Let us take a moment to center ourselves in God’s presence.

Close your eyes. Place your feet on the ground.

Take a deep breath in...and a deep breath out.

Breathe in God’s mercy. Breathe out God’s mercy to others.

Breathe in God’s love. Breathe out God’s love to others.

Keep breathing.

Hear again the words from the Psalmist:

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Amen.

“Evening Song” (David Hurd - organ piece)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On this ordinary day, in this ordinary place, among ordinary people,

All: Christ is here.

One: At the top of Lookout, in the lunch line at the Inn,
by the creek, at the Huck,

All: Christ is there.

One: In your classroom, in your youth lounge,
at the grocery store, on the street corner,

All: Christ is there.
One: When you feel your best, when you can't stop tears,
when wandering and lost, when walking with purpose,
All: Christ is there.
One: By the lake, at breakfast time, on a cloudy day, in the midst of grief,
All: Christ is there.
One: On this night, among squeaky pews and sweaty worshippers,
All: Christ is here. Let us worship God who is present among us.

SONG: Christ Be Beside Me

SCRIPTURE READING

Tonight we hear a reading from the final chapter of the Gospel of John. After Jesus was crucified and buried, on the first day of the week, Mary went to the tomb and discovered the stone rolled away and Jesus appeared to her in a garden. Jesus then appeared to his disciples who were hanging out in a locked room, grieving from the loss of their friend and afraid that they were next. But eventually the disciples went back to their ordinary lives and their ordinary work.

The Gospel of John, the 21st chapter:

Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. [And on that ordinary day], just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF PRESENCE

Let us pray,

Holy Christ, present with us now, we give thanks that you show up in ordinary places among ordinary people.

In life, you visited sinners in their homes,
you met strangers by the sea,
you healed countless people, nameless to us, known fully to you,
you hung out at friends' houses,
and walked around with dusty sandals.

In your new life, you again showed up
in the garden,
on the road,
in locked upper rooms,
and at a beach-side breakfast.

Enter our ordinary spaces and the lives of us, your ordinary people, and surprise us with your grace.

Just as you made yourself known then, show up in places like:

INSERT PRAYER CARDS FROM TUESDAY'S OFFERING

By your holy presence, befriend ordinary people like:

INSERT PRAYER CARDS FROM TUESDAY'S OFFERING

Show up, O Christ, here in this place.

Choir Anthem: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Meet us, O God, through your Word. Surprise us in this extraordinary yet ordinary moment. Speak to us as your friends so that we can hear you clearly. Call us to you, the source of love. In your beloved name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 21: 5-19

SERMON

SONG

Come bring your burdens to God

PRAYER OF RELEASE

Call to Confession/Prayer

Sometimes our prayers of confession feel like a laundry list of things we have done or not done and we wonder if we can relate. But true confession invites us to place before a graceful God the things that hold us captive so that we are set free to meet the risen Christ and receive his invitation to love.

Instead of a spoken prayer of confession tonight, you are invited to spend some time in silent reflection. We will have three times of prayerful contemplation, each with a question to ponder and an action you may choose to use to help you focus your prayer. We will allow 2 minutes for each question. For some of you this will feel like a long time; for others this is just the beginning of a life-long practice of prayerful contemplation that can connect you to God. Regardless, we invite each of you to try this now and to respect and love your neighbor by honoring their ability to pray as well. We will end each period of prayerful reflection with release in song.

Action: Clench your fists.

Question to pray and ponder (x2) and repeat again at 1 min mark:

What are you holding onto that prevents you from loving God?

Action: Fold your hands in prayer.

Question to pray and ponder:

Who can help you let go?

Action: Open your palms upward.

Question to pray and ponder:

What could you receive from God if you were free?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus asked Peter and Jesus asks us:

Do you love me? **Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.**

Do you love me? **Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.**

Do you love me? **Yes, Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.**

Set free from all that holds you back from loving God,
you are forgiven, welcomed, and loved.

RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE

We Will Lay Our Burden Down

CHARGE AND BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Glory Glory Hallelujah

Friday Liturgy/Worship
Be the Difference in the World
God calls us to live, love, engage, serve, and change the world
Exodus 2:1-10/ Psalm 24/ Romans 12:1-21

PROCESSIONAL

Light the Fire

Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled

Then psalm verse: (with music underneath)

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it. The whole world and those who live in it,
For he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.” -Psalm 24

Procession of water (like from Monday) and Christ candle.

Then continue singing

Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God calls us FROM many places

**All: from big churches and small churches,
from private schools and public schools,
from riverbeds and mountaintops,
from dusty roads and beachfronts.**

One: God calls us TO many places

**All: to places familiar and places unknown,
to new challenges and unrevealed opportunities,
to unexpected friendships and rekindled relationships,
to service to our neighbors near and far.**

One: No matter where we are coming from
or where we are being called to

**All: We gather now to worship and praise God,
who creates, saves, sustains, and calls us.**

CONFESSION

Before we are called forth to live, love and serve in God’s world, we are called to stand before God in prayer. With humility and honesty, willing to admit our faults and fears, we dare to admit the things that hold us back from all we have been created to be and all we are called to do. But we stand before a God whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. We pray to a God who has been using broken people to redeem the world for ages, trusting that God can do the same with us. So let us pray.

Calling God, we hear the stories of amazing characters in scripture who followed your call and changed the world. But we doubt our ability to do the same. It's easy to be faithful and courageous at Montreat. We are afraid to be bold at home. We fear judgment from friends. Sometimes we are simply too busy to pay attention to your call.

Set us free from the fear and doubt that disables us, Holy God. Help us trust that small actions can make a big difference in your world. Give us ears to hear and eyes to see where your people—or even just one person—are crying out, and grant us strength to respond to your call. Through Christ, who followed your call and changed the world.

Song: I Was Here (Kristin Chenoweth)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: *pouring water into the font*

By the waters, God has heard our cry.

Through the waters, we have been saved.

Refreshed with water, we are sustained for the journey ahead!

One: Because we are forgiven,

All: We are set free to do something that matters.

One: Because we are loved by God,

All: We are called to live better, fuller, more joyful lives.

One: Because Christ has touched our heart,

All: We go out out to touch the hearts of others.

One: Because Christ is with us,

All: We can live so that others know we are here
to love and to serve

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,

your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path.

By your Spirit,

Give us eyes to spot where you are—

here in this place and throughout your world.

Give us ears that strain for your voice

of encouragement and calling.

Give us minds to engage your challenge in our lives.

Give us hearts of compassion, empathy, and love for
our sisters and brothers around us. Amen.

Adapted from UWorship resource

SONG: Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:1-10

SERMON

THEME SONG

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, set your Word in us,

like a seed that needs time and darkness to grow,

like a song we can't get out of our heads,

like a conversation with a good friend.

May what we have read and heard and done this week

surprise us with encouragement at just the right moment,

haunt us until we have to share it with others,

and comfort us when we feel alone.

We are not where we started. Things have changed.

Our lives are different.

New truths.

New understanding.

New ways of believing.

We can't go back. Not with this Word within us.

We have been changed. So as we go . . .

back to our homes,

back to our churches,

back to our schools,

back to our families and friends,

lead us into this new truth,

this new understanding,

this new way of believing,

this new way of loving,

so things will change, so lives will be different,

so we will not return to where we once were.

Because your Word is within us. Amen.

Adapted from UWorship Resource.

Sung Response: Theme song - 2x

CHARGE TO THE COMMUNITY

Tonight, we take the faith that has been stirred in us this week and charge one another to live that faith as we go from this place. Paul's letter to the Romans charged a whole community of believers to live as faithful disciples. Tonight, we hear God's word in Romans 12 from one another as a charge to each other. We invite you to read responsively with your class year.

One: I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your

bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

All: **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

Rising seniors: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think;

Rising sophomores: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

Rising juniors: Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Rising freshman: Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord

Graduated seniors: Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Back-home leaders: Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Small group leaders: Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Conference leadership: Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Rising seniors: Live in harmony with one another;

Rising sophomores: Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.

Rising juniors: Do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Rising freshmen: Do not repay anyone evil for evil,
but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

Graduated seniors: If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Please be seated. We invite you to remain seated and continue singing while your section is ushered out to the lake. Please follow your line. Let us continue singing.

MUSIC INSIDE

Let it Shine

Sanctuary

Down in the River to Pray

Take, O Take me as I am.

Here I am to Worship

Light the Fire

CANDLELIGHT LITURGY

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." -John 8:12

COMMISSIONING PRAYER AROUND THE LAKE

Rodger: Let us join our hearts in prayer.

Loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of this week: for creation set ablaze with your glory, for new friendships formed and old ones rekindled, for hearts ignited in love of you. We rejoice that your light burns more brightly now than ever before, and as bearers of the light, we rejoice that there is no darkness that can overcome it.

Help us to be stewards of your light in this world. Strengthen us to return home changed, living so that others can see that light in us. Embolden us to follow your light to places we might not have gone otherwise and to be the difference needed in our homes, our communities, and your world. Let the light of Christ shine in all that we say and do as we return home. We ask all these things through Christ, the Light of the world, Amen.

EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

Ashley: Friends, look around the lake. With each candle, we see a glimmer of God's light in the darkness, a light that reflects off the water in which we have been claimed. And each of you as candle bearers carries that light within you no matter where you go, enabling you to make a difference in God's kingdom.

Rodger: As you look out, think about the memories you have made in this place: the friendships formed, the prayers lifted up, the laughter shared, the challenges faced. We pray that this week at Montreat has made a difference in your life.

Ashley: As you look at your own candle, think about the call stirring in your own life: the promises you've made, the hopes you have for the future, the ways you can make an impact on the world. We pray that as you go, you will make a difference in the lives of those you meet.

Rodger: The candles that we hold are just a symbol of the light we bear inside of us. Tonight as we extinguish our candles, we trust that God has given us all we need to keep our own light blazing forth and guiding us on the road ahead.

As you hear the name of the group with which you identify, please blow out your candle.

Small group leaders, please blow out your candles

Ashley: Back home leaders, please blow out your candles

Rodger: Work crew and support staff, please blow out your candles

Ashley: Planning team, summer staff and leadership, please blow out your candles

Rodger: Rising 9th graders, please blow out your candles

Ashley: Rising sophomores, please blow out your candles

Rodger: Rising juniors, please blow out your candles

Ashley: Rising seniors, please blow out your candles

Rodger: Those whose candles are still burning are graduated seniors. This is their last conference as a youth. Their challenge is greater than many of yours because their future holds exciting changes and new ways that they can be a difference in the world.

Ashley: As you are able, find a senior and put your hand on their shoulder, so that we might offer a blessing for them to carry with them as they go.

Rodger: As you go from this place, remember that God made you in God's image, unique and wonderful. As you go from this place, remember that God has equipped you with all that you need to be the difference in your family, your church, among your friends and in the world. Wherever you go, may you serve God with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. Whatever adventures and challenges lie ahead, may you feel God's presence, listen to God's call, and follow God's light each and every day.

Ashley: Graduated seniors, please blow out your candles.

BENEDICTION

Ashley