

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: One courageous act changes the world:

**ALL: like Francine who shared her last piece of chocolate
with a woman giving birth in her concentration camp**

**ALL: like Malala who stood up to the Taliban
insisting that girls go to school too**

**ALL: like Swedish bystanders
who noticed something wasn't quite right
that night on the Stanford campus
and stepped into do something about it**

**like the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah,
who disobeyed a direct order from Pharaoh
to kill all the male Hebrew babies**

One: One courageous act changes the world.

ALL: One courageous act changes the world.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our preacher this week has challenged us
to tell the truth—

to tell the truth about the church

to tell the truth about ourselves.

It's what we do in Confession—

We tell the truth.

It's hard being honest.

That's why we do it together.

In community.

Please join me in naming what needs to change.

It's the first step in changing the world.

CONFESSION

We care, O God. We really do.

But the world is so broken,

sometimes we don't even know where to begin.

Other times it's just easier to keep doing what we've always done.
But we hear Your call to be different
and to be the difference in this world.
So reshape us

when we get hung up on what we can't do rather than what we can do
when we turn down the chance to stand up for what is right
when our courage decides to take a vacation
when it's easier to be a part-time Christian rather than a full-time Christian.

Reshape us
so that Your kingdom comes
and Your will is done
here on earth...
Here. On. Earth.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, we take this time to tell the truth.
Not to make us feel bad.
Not to point fingers.
Not to shame anyone.
We tell the truth
because we know this world is not as God intended.

And when we tell the truth,
God doesn't unfriend us.
God doesn't say three strikes and you're out.
God doesn't turn God's back on us.

Instead, God says "I see who you are trying to be.
I get you. I love you. Even when the rest of the world does not.
So let's be brave and courageous.
And let's do this together.

For there is nothing in the world that will make me stop loving you.
Nothing. Nothing at all."

In the midst of a world full of bad news, my friends,
this is the good, good news.
Let us celebrate God's love

by sharing signs of peace with one another.

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ Be With You.

ALL: And also with you.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:15-21

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives,
one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,

¹⁶"When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women,
and see them on the birthstool,
if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live."

¹⁷But the midwives feared God;
they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.

¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them,
"Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?"

¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh,
"Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women;
for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."

²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives;
and the people multiplied and became very strong.

²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people,
"Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile,
but you shall let every girl live."

CANDLELIGHT LITURGY AT LAKESIDE

PRAYER AT LAKESIDE

Gracious God—what a week!

For six days, we've laughed and cried,
studied scripture, sung our hearts out, asked hard questions,
rock hopped and eaten ice cream at The Huck.

We've taken a deeper look at ourselves

and a deeper look at God's world.

We've prayed, learned funky energizers,
and maybe even made it to the top of Look Out.

We've learned to talk back in sermons, saying:
"preach short man"
We've marveled at how a single piece of chocolate
can make all the difference in the world.

But now, we begin to say goodbye
to this holy place and this holy week.

Be with us as we gather up this week
and head back into the world.
Help us to carry what we've learned here:
 things like—it's okay to be different
 and it's okay to challenge our churches

things like—we must tell the truth
 and it's time to get some friends who are different than us

things like—one small act really can change the world
 and in the midst of all the bad news in the world,
 we have some really good news to share.

Help us not forget these things
once we step back into our lives at home.
And give us courage to be the difference
in our families, our churches, among our peers,
and in this wide and wonderful world.
We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

Summer staff, support staff, and work crew:
we love you and thank you for your tremendous work
in making this week go smoothly
Please extinguish your candle
remembering you made a world of difference to us this week.

Back Home Leaders:

thank you for your connections to young people,
for helping them process their experiences here,
for tending to their needs and fears,
for managing conflict, cooking meals, and driving vans.
Please extinguish your candle
knowing that your presence has made a difference this week.

Small Group Leaders:

thank you for getting us talking, for honoring our questions,
for staying up late, for meeting us where we are,
for providing a safe space for us to come together
and learn more about our faith.
Please extinguish your candle...
knowing that you, too,
have made a world of difference during this conference.

Stage Leadership and Planning Team Members:

thank you for getting on that stage each day
and for all the behind the scenes work that we never even saw.
For pushing us out of our comfort zones.
For gifting us with music that stirs the soul.
For creating space to play and let loose.
For preaching *to* us and not *at* us.
Please extinguish your candle...
knowing that you have helped us recognize
how to honor our differences.

Rising Freshmen:

your first time at Youth Conference,
hopefully not your last.
Please extinguish your candle
remembering the world needs your difference.

Rising Sophomores:

you've made it through the first year of high school.
Congratulations.
Please extinguish your candle
remembering the world needs your difference

Rising Juniors:

it's a busy year ahead, but you will get through it.
Please extinguish your candle
remembering to be the difference in the world.

Rising Seniors:
so many decisions await you.
Cherish this final year at home.
Please extinguish your candle
remembering to be the difference in the world.

Graduated Seniors:
high school is over.
Something new awaits.
Blessings as you transition to whatever is next.
God goes with you. And so do our prayers.
Please extinguish your candle
remembering and believing that the world needs your difference.