

Processional for each night:

-6 people process broken heart pieces; together they form a heart when they reach the stage, then place heart pieces in designated spots beneath the Table or along stage extension.

(This is something that is happening as part of the opening night skit and processional. We can continue it throughout the week in every night's processional to create continuity. The heart connects to the world heart banners that will be on stage, and illuminates themes of being a difference in the world always beginning with love.)

-Process colored banners

(Artist Hannah Garrity will be making colored fabric banners as part of the installation. She will design them so they can be processed and waved like kites. The multiple colors represent how we "color" the world with our unique offerings.)

-Process bible, chalice, pitcher, etc.

-Are there ways we want to change the processional each night? Include props related to each night's theme? Progressively carry different colored banners throughout the week?

Overall Notes:

-see special directions for Wednesday and Thursday nights

Monday Night

Scripture: Acts 9: 1-22 (Saul's conversion)

Theme: We are set apart for unique work; own our lenses and embrace our differences

Processional:

Suggested song: "Come Thou Fount" King's Kaleidoscope.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0wRw-dbmy8>

Prayer of Adoration:

Leader 1: Eternal God, your touch makes this world holy.

Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendor of creation, and in the beauty of human life.

Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share your blessings with our sisters and brothers, and to experience the joy of life in your presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(BCW, 500)

Call to Worship:

Leader 1: Friends, we have traveled from places near and far to be here in this thin space.
We come ready to meet God.
So let us prepare to see God in new light.

Leader 2: We invite you now to remain silent as you look over your right shoulder. See the faces of friends and people you know well.
(pause)

Leader 1: Now look over your left shoulder. Look out at all the faces of friends you have yet to make.
(pause)

Leader 2: Now turn and look behind you. Remember all the people, activities, comforts, and burdens that you left behind to be here this week.
(pause)

Leader 1: Now look up toward the sky. Remember that God fills you up when you feel empty, and wraps you close when you feel small.
(pause)

Leader 2: Now look down at your feet. Remember that God has worked hard to plant you here in this exact moment and in this exact place. You have been called here--welcome home.
(pause)

Leader 1: Now close your eyes. Take in a deep breath. Remember that even in the midst of our excitement and our anxieties, God calls us to be still.
(pause)

Leader 2: You may now look up and open your eyes.

Leader 1: We have recognized Christ in the faces of strangers and friends. We have glimpsed the Spirit at work in bringing us to this space. We have felt the presence of God in our hearts and beyond.

Leader 2: With new perspectives and eyes wide open, let us worship God.

Call to Confession: Friends, in a world saturated with social media, it can be so tempting to curate a perfect version of ourselves for others to see. We can so easily hide behind fancy filters and only show off the parts of our lives that seem happy and perfect. But behind all the filters and “instagram-worthy” moments, are the real, messy, honest parts of our lives. Let us now come before God showing all of our beauty and our mess, our happiness and our sadness. Let us be honest with God about who we really are, knowing that God already knows what is in our hearts and loves us beyond belief. Please join me in our prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession:

Leader 1: God of mercy,
you created us, you know us, and you call us by name.
Yet, so often we feel ashamed of our differences
and try to hide who we are.

Leader 2: Our worries about school and relationships,
our families and our future,
leave us dry and parched,
longing for an oasis of acceptance
and the reassurance of love.

All: In the midst of our mess, we forget that we are not alone.

Leader 1: You are with us, offering Living Water like a stream that will never run dry.
Forgive us, we pray.

All: Drown out the doubts that overwhelm us, and give us hope for new life again.

Leader 2: We pray these things in the name of Jesus, the one who knows us and loves us fully.
Amen.

(Confession written by Sarah Are.)

Assurance of Pardon:

(2 JPs pour large jug of water into font, allowing the water to splash and make noise)

Leader: Do you hear that? That’s the sound of love poured out for you.
No matter what you have done or left undone,
no matter if your heart is filled with shame or weighed down with pride,
No matter if hate your differences or embrace them wholeheartedly,
God has washed over you, giving you a fresh start in this moment and every moment now to come.
Friends, in Christ we are forgiven!

Passing of the Peace:

God joins us like a river that will never run dry. Joyfully, let us celebrate by sharing the peace of Christ with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination:

Holy God, in a few moments we will read the story of your apostle Paul. We'll dig up his dirty past and expose the ways he walked the path of death and destruction. But we do all of this knowing that you can handle it. In these scriptures, you show us the extremes of humanity to tell the full narrative of your unbounding love. May we find a place for ourselves too in this scripture today. May we bring our whole selves to your Word, knowing that you can handle our doubts and our questions, our past and our present, our brutality and our beauty. In return, show us the fullness of your narrative, filling us with your unbounding love. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith:

L: In the beginning, God knit us into the womb of the world calling us good.

A: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth...

L: 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.

A: ...And in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord.

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Born of the virgin Mary. Suffered under

Pontius Pilate. Was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.

L: On the cross, Christ suffered abuse and died.

And then he rose,

Breaking the world open with new life.

A: On the third day, he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty, from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

L: Through Christ, we are set free.

No abuse, or mistake, or violence is beyond God's reach.

Even death has been conquered.

A: I believe in the Holy Spirit. The holy Universal church. The communion of Saints. The forgiveness of sins. The resurrection of the body...

L: 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.

A: ...and life everlasting. Amen.

Tuesday Night

John 9: 1-23 (healing of blind man)

Theme: Be the difference in your families; families are messy and we should embrace them, but we're also called to be part of the larger family of God

Processional:

Suggested song: "Carry You," by the Native Sibling:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWwCgFkoLhA>

Prayer of Adoration:

Leader: Eternal God,

Our beginning and our end,

Be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us in this day's journey. Use our hands to do the work of your creation, and use our lives to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all. Amen.

(BCW, 500)

Call to Worship:

(Throughout this liturgy, 3 JPs will stand on stage modeling the motions as they are prompted)

Leader 1: People of God, though we come from different parents and different places,
we enter this space as one family, and we will leave as one people.

All: United by God, we are one.

Leader 2: As you hear your name called, please stand to worship God.

Leader 1: If you are a sister, please stand to worship God.

Leader 2: If you are a brother, please stand to worship God.

Leader 1: If you are a cousin, please stand to worship God.

Leader 2: If you are a mother, place your right hand on your heart.

Leader 1: If you are a father, place your left hand on your heart.

Leader 2: If you are a child of God, please hold hands with someone next to you.

Leader 1: If you belong to Christ, raise your neighbors' hands.

Leader 2: People of God, though we come from different parents and different places,
We enter this space as one family, and we will leave as one people.

All: United by God, we are one.

Leader 1: Joined by the Spirit, let us worship God

Call to Confession: Friends, while each of us holds unique perspectives, we admit that sometimes we think our way of seeing is the only way; though we think we are aware, there is so much that we cannot or will not see. With our eyes wide open, let us now confess the ways in which we fail to truly see each other, knowing that God offers sight to the blind and light within the darkness. Please join me in our prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession:

(During the prayer of confession, 2 JP will help act out the layers of blindness from which we suffer. One JP will have several strips of fabric (in different colors) tied as blindfolds across his/her eyes. The other JP will guide the blindfolded JP to the font and will remove one of the blindfolds, dropping them in the font, each time it is prompted in the prayer of confession.)

Leader 1: Holy God, though we like to think we live with our eyes wide open,
we confess that often we join the blind man on the side of the road, unable to see what is right before us. And so, we sit and wait, in need of your healing and in need of sight to see the world through your eyes.

(Blindfolded JP sits near the font. During these opening lines, another JP comes, helps the other up, and begins unraveling one of the blindfolds.)

Leader 2: When we are blind to the silent suffering of our friends and to the pain we cause others to feel,

(JP removes one of the blindfolds, dropping it in the font)

All: Give us sight.

Leader 1: When we are blind to the desperate hunger and need of those who live across the seas and across our own neighborhood streets,

(JP removes one of the blindfolds, dropping it in the font)

All: Give us sight.

Leader 2: When we turn away from the dark shadows of racism, ignoring the ways our divisions hurt and harm us all,

(JP removes one of the blindfolds, dropping it in the font)

All: Give us sight.

Leader 1: When we are blind to the pollution we make worse, ignoring communities affected by rising tides, droughts, and smog,

(JP removes one of the blindfolds, dropping it in the font)

All: Give us sight.

Leader 2: When we are blind to the beauty God places within each of us, denying ourselves of worth and confidence,

(JP removes one of the blindfolds, dropping it in the font)

All: Give us sight.

Leader 1: Holy God, even though our vision can be hazy, you unravel all the layers of our blindness. Here, in these holy waters, we release all of our darkness, all of our cast shadows, all of our blindfolds.

(Previously blindfolded JP holds up the wet blindfolds, raising them to drip above the font)

Leader 2: For it was with Christ's very own spit that he drew mud from the dirt to give the blind man sight.

And so it is with these very waters of renewal that God transforms us too, giving us new eyes to see.

(Previously blindfolded JP releases the blindfolds into the font, then begins cupping water in his/her raised hands to let the water fall into the font below)

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader 1: Friends, no matter how many layers cover our eyes,

Leader 2: No matter how many times we avert our gaze,

Leader 1: God's promise holds true:

Leader 2: We are washed clean,

Leader 1: we are set free,

Leader 2: we are led beyond the darkness into new light.

Leader 1: And with this new sight, we no longer sit and wait.

All: **We act, we go, we serve, we love.**

Leader 2: Hear, believe, and see this good news: In Christ we are forgiven.
Amen.

Response to forgiveness:

“You Make Beautiful Things” video: <https://youtu.be/1spkhp41ig4?list=RDfOH6qYTOo0c>

(If the music leaders know this song, they could lead us in singing it. If not, we could show the video. “You make beautiful things out of the dust,” both celebrates the promise of new life/forgiveness and also connects to the story of Jesus healing the blind man’s sight using mud.)

Passing of the Peace: Loli will do this

Prayer for Illumination:

Leader: Holy one, you say you are the light of the world, and yet darkness surrounds us. We are blind to your living Word.

All: **We fail to see your scriptures at work in this clouded world.**

Leader: May your Word be like mud across our eyes, giving us sight to see, and light to illuminate the shadows. In your many names we pray, Amen.

Offering:

Call to Offering/prayer of dedication: YAV (ask sara?)

Affirmation of Faith:

(The Iona Creed; from the Iona Community)

Leader: We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty

**All: where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

Leader: We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith
that takes us beyond a safe place:

**All: into action, into vulnerability
and onto the streets.**

Leader: We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
and face humiliation;

**All: to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit.
for God's new community of hope.**

Wednesday Night

Processional: Loli's processional plans

Scripture: Acts 2: 14-42 (Pentecost)

Theme: Be the difference in your church; Pentecost fulfills Babel; The church incarnated to celebrate diversity.

Notes: For the prayer of brokenness, we will be offering our laments for the ways the church has failed us and the ways we have failed to be the church. Starting on Sunday night, we can designate a table in Anderson lobby for people to write laments on small, colored pieces of paper and place them in a box. If there's a way this activity could be incorporated into small groups, that'd be preferable. JP can also write multiple laments to make sure we have enough prayers.

During the prayer of brokenness, JP will tear and drop our colored paper laments into the baptismal font as a visual of the ways God washes us clean even in the midst of all our failings. Prior to worship, we will incorporate some of the lament prayers into our spoken prayers of the people. If there are enough written prayers, we can scatter them across the table for another visual.

Prompts for prayers: *When have you, or someone you know, felt hurt, excluded, or misunderstood by the church? When have we failed to be the church to others?*

Materials needed: Colored sheets of paper (can be the size of index cards)

Prayer of Adoration:

God our creator, earth has many languages, but your gospel proclaims your love to all nations in one heavenly tongue. Make us messengers of the good news that, through the power of your Spirit, all the world may unite in one song of praise. Amen.

Call To Worship: *(5 JP stand at front of stage to embody different movements and actions during the liturgy.)*

Leader: On the day of Pentecost, the church was gathered together in one place.

All: Could it have looked something like this?

JP hold different poses looking out and around the auditorium.

Leader: On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God blew through the church like a howling wind.

All: Could it have sounded something like this?

JP rub hands back and forth and make wind sounds.

Leader: On the day of Pentecost, differences were minimized as people came together, seeing and hearing one another.

All: Could it have felt something like this?

JP hold hands.

Leader: On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God fell down like rain, on everyone gathered there that day.

All: And sons and daughters prophesied.

2 JPs place their right hands on their hearts.

Leader: And young people saw visions.

3 JPs place their right hands on their hearts.

And old people dreamed dreams.

All JPs place their left hands on their hearts.

Leader: Thanks be to God for bringing us together in this place.

All: May we, like those before us, worship God with our whole hearts. Amen.

All JPs open and lift their arms.

(Call To Worship adapted from prayer written by Sarah Are, first published in liturgy for A Sanctified Art Pentecost bundle. © 2016, A Sanctified Art. Sanctifiedart.com)

Call to Confession:

Friends, as the church we are called to serve others with the gentle compassion of Christ. And yet, we must confess that the church is not always a gentle or compassionate place for all. We lament the ways we have been wounded by the church, and we confess the ways we, ourselves, have failed to be Christ's loving church to others. Let us now offer our prayers of brokenness to the One who breathes new life into the empty tomb. Please join me in our prayer of confession:

Prayer of Brokenness

(Laments for the Church):

(During this prayer, multiple JP members will walk one-by-one, following the prompts, toward the font carrying a handful of colored lament prayers. When it is their turn get to the font, they will rip the prayers apart and scatter them into the water of the font)

Leader 1: In Christ we are one body. We all make up different parts of this body, separate and unique, respected and valuable. But sometimes we choose conformity instead of unity; we prioritize institutions over individuals; we present dogma instead warm welcome. And so, when one of us suffers, we all suffer; for our separate actions cause deep harm for us all.

Let us now lament the ways we have failed to be God's holy and loving Church.

Leader 1: We lament the times when the Church has silenced the voices of young people, denying that we have anything worthwhile to say.

(First JP walks to font, tears laments and drops them in the waters)

Leader 2: When we are torn apart,

All: Make us whole

Leader 1: We lament the times when the Church makes headlines for exclusion and hate, instead of for acts of justice and love.

(JP walks to font, tears laments and drops them in the waters)

Leader 2: When we are torn apart,

All: Make us whole

Leader 1: We lament the times when the Church romanticizes the past, clinging to dead rituals instead of new expressions of faith.

(JP walks to font, tears laments and drops them in the waters)

Leader 2: When we are torn apart,

All: Make us whole

Leader 1: We lament the times when the Church has failed to be a home for everyone, instead becoming a safe haven only for a select few.

(JP walks to font, tears laments and drops them in the waters)

Leader 2: When we are torn apart,

All: Make us whole

Leader 1: Here we are, O God. We offer up to you all our broken bits, all of our shattered parts.

All: Dayspring, come in your wisdom. Save us from ourselves.

Visual meditation immediately plays.

Visual meditation: "Yahweh" by The Brilliance (Official lyric music video)

<https://youtu.be/zDpCnVhJy9M>

This video incorporates visuals of church buildings and language about God pouring out God's spirit. It is confessional and lamentful in tone.

Assurance of Pardon:**Leader:**

People of God, though we tear ourselves apart, we are never fully torn;

Though we are broken and battered, we will not fall apart.

For the dayspring has come.

(JP splashes water from the font onto the stage and those in front row)

Feel the freshness of forgiveness.

Our God splashes us with grace.

God's Spirit has poured down upon us, making us into a new creation now, and forevermore.

Believe this good news: In Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace:

Leader: Rejoicing in the God who splashes us with grace, let us share the joy of our salvation by passing the peace with our neighbors.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination:

Leader: Friends, join me in a meditative prayer for illumination.

I invite you to bow your heads and open your non-dominant hand, palm side up.

Trace the shape of the wind on your palm in honor of the way the Spirit can move in us.

(pause)

Now, trace a flame on your palm, remembering how God can show up in mysterious ways, remembering how the presence of God warms and purifies us.

(pause)

Now, clasp your hands, lacing your fingers together, remembering the way in which scripture calls us into unity with one another.

With clear minds and focused hearts, I pray that we may hear the words of scripture today, and be receptive to the ways in which God speaks to us through this good word.

In God's holy name we pray, Amen.

(Prayer for Illumination written by Sarah Are, first published in liturgy for A Sanctified Art Pentecost bundle. © 2016, A Sanctified Art. Sanctifiedart.com)

Call to affirmation: Teresa of Avila once said, "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours." Let us now affirm what we believe to be true about being the body of Christ in the world. Please join me in our affirmation of faith:

Affirmation of Faith:

Leader 1: In Christ, we are one body.

Leader 2: There are many members of the body, but one Spirit.

All: We are welcomed; we are called.

Leader 2: All parts make up this body; every part is needed to make the body whole.

Leader 1: The foot cannot say to the hand, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand."

All: If we did not have the foot, we could not walk in the path of Christ.

Leader 2: The ear cannot say to the eye, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye."

All: If we did not have the ear, we could not hear the cries of those in need.

Leader 1: The eye cannot say to the nose, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a nose."

All: If we did not have the eye, we could not see Christ in the faces of strangers.

God has placed each part just as God wants.

Leader 1: The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you."

Leader 2: And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you."

All: We are welcomed; we are called.

Leader 1: If one part suffers, we all suffer.

Leader 2: If one part rejoices, we all rejoice.

Leader 1: For there are many members of the body, but one Spirit.

All: Christ needs us all to be his hands and feet.

(based on 1 Corinthians 12)

Thursday Night

Scripture: John 21: 1-19 (Peter and Jesus; naming and changing)

Theme: God is relationship and calls us to be in relationship with others, especially our peers

Processional: [Song to consider playing during the processional: "Love has a way," by the Brilliance](#)

Notes: During the week, we will invite youth to tweet prayers for their peers. These can be anonymous or include specific names. They can be prayers for peers back home and/or peers in small group and people at Montreat. We will invite them to tweet their prayers using the hashtags: #prayersforpeers #myc2016. On Wednesday afternoon, I will collect these prayers from Twitter and incorporate them into a slideshow (removing handles so the authors of the prayers are anonymous) with music. The prayers of the people for this service will incorporate this visual meditation.

Prayer of Adoration:

O God,

You are the well-spring of life. Pour into our hearts the living water of your grace, that we may be refreshed to live this day in joy, confident of your presence and empowered by your peace, in Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

(BCW, 501)

Call to Worship:

(3 JPs will stand at front stage to model the motions prompted during the liturgy)

Leader 1: Father, Son, Holy Spirit,

God is both three and One, many in unity.

All: But how can it be?

Leader: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

God is perfect Trinity.

All: But how can it be?

Leader: This is how:

Lift your hands, palms facing up. Turn your thumbs toward the creek side of the auditorium.

Now grab hands with your neighbor.

In this moment, you are both offering support and receiving it.

As you sustain another, another sustains you.

Now release your hands and turn your thumbs toward the other side of the auditorium, toward the road, and once again join hands with your neighbor.

Now you hold up the hand that once held you,
and you lean on the one who once leaned on you.

This, my friends, is the promise of the Trinity:
God exists in perfect relationship.
And so, in relationship, we will live and prosper also.

All: Thanks be to God.

Call to Confession: Friends, we are neither all good or all bad. The reality of our humanity is complex; we prosper and we fail, we triumph and we fall. But we were made good in the image of a good God, so let us come before our creator to bear all of our goodness and all of our sin, knowing that God is always making us whole. Please join me in a time of contemplative prayer of confession. You are invited to respond to the prayer with actions as you hear them prompted.

Prayer of Confession:

Leader 1: Though many of us have best friends, if we're being honest, we admit that we are not always the best at being best friends; though many of us know the joys of friendship, we are not always able to feel the joy that community brings.

Leader 2: Facing the realities of who we are, let us now confess our sins through honest reflection and action.

Leader 1: If you have ever ignored a friend in times of need, close your eyes.

Leader 2: If you have ever felt betrayed or ignored by a friend when you needed support, clench your right fist.

Leader 1: If you have ever bullied someone, or witnessed bullying taking place but did nothing to stop it, clench your left fist.

Leader 2: If you, yourself, have ever been the victim of bullying or mean jokes, cross your arms in your lap.

Leader 1: Friends, this is what it feels like to be trapped by sin; this is what it feels like to be locked up by our brokenness. This is what it feels like to be cut off and alone. We know this feeling all too well.

Leader 2: But God's story did not end with a cross and neither will ours. We do not remain locked up and trapped forever, for the gospel promise is true: we were created good, we are

made for good, and for good we will live our lives. So, knowing that we are bigger than our brokenness, let us also confess our goodness:

Leader 1: If you have ever become friends with a stranger, uncross your arms.

Leader 2: If you have ever offered a helping hand to a neighbor, open your left hand.

Leader 1: If you have ever reconciled with a friend after a fight, open your right hand.

Leader 2: If you have ever seen Christ in the face of another, open your eyes.

Leader 1: And if you still feel locked up, uncross your hands, release your clenched fists and open your eyes. This is what God's grace feels like: open, wild and free.

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader 2: Friends, believe this good news:

No matter how often we clench our fists or cross our arms,
God is always releasing us and setting us free.

Leader 1: In Christ we are forgiven, in Christ we are set free.

Leader 2: Let us rejoice by sharing the peace of Christ with one another through a handshake, hug, or wave.

Passing of the Peace:

Leader 1: May the peace of Christ be with you, to transform you, mold you, and and set you free.

May peace be with you

All: And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination:

Leader: God, the author of our lives,

Sometimes your scriptures can sound so ancient and outdated to us; They were written so long ago and, if we're being honest, it can be hard to know how they relate to us today. But we remember that your scriptures are God-breathed; your Spirit moved long before they were written, your Spirit moved through them in the beginning, and your Spirit continues to move through them now, sweeping across the page to stir in us a new mind, a new heart, and a new life. As we inhale and exhale a deep breath, we ask that you breathe your Spirit through your Word once again. Let it fill our lungs, our hearts, and our lives. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Loli: Holy father and mother of us all, many of us fill our weekends with sleepovers and soccer games, movie nights and meetups at parks. We know what it's like to get a text or a hug from a friend when we need it most. We know what it's like to laugh until we cry, to dance under street lights, and to go on random adventures without stopping to ask why. We know what it's like to have inside jokes and hands to hold.

But we also know what it's like to feel the tug of loneliness, to be heavy with the weight of sadness or regret. We know what it's like for our hearts to shatter within our chests when a friend or relationship breaks apart. We know what it's like to feel raw and exposed, betrayed by those whom we've loved the most.

So, now, with our eyes open, let us pray for all of these moments when our peers need to feel you close:

[Video of #prayersforpeers plays]

(Background music for video: "Mercy" by the Brilliance <https://youtu.be/hBNuOJjinYQ>)

Holy God, wrap us all in your arms. Care for the full-hearted and the broken-hearted, for the extroverted and for the introverted, for the joy-filled and those who can't stop hurting. Remembering your everlasting grace, we recite the words you taught us so long ago. Amen.

Invitation to the Table:

When Jesus appeared to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberius, he said to them, "Cast your nets," even after hours of empty attempts. Weary and doubtful, they followed the command of who they believed to be a stranger, and, soon enough, their nets were bursting with fish. Then they gathered around a small fire, ate a simple meal and were filled up with so much more than just food.

Friends, as we gather around this table tonight, we remember that God gathers us as family and as strangers to share a simple, yet abundant meal. God meets us in ordinary and unexpected places, transforming even empty fishing nets and plain bread into an extraordinary feast. Here, at this table, we don't just receive the bread of sustenance--we receive the bread of life.

So come, all who are weary and doubtful.
 Come, all who are hungry and eager;
 Come, all who are open and willing;
 Come, all who wish to meet Christ;

You, all of you, are invited to this joyful feast.

Let us pray:

(lines of Communion liturgy can be divided up however you like for those leading Communion)

Leader: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us open our hearts.

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

Leader: Let us give thanks.

All: We thank God with joy.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving:

God of all nations,

They have called you El Shadaai, Adoni, YHWH, and Elohim. We have called you creator, father, mother, and source of our love.

We need more than one name for you God, because you are bigger than our imagination. You are God of all nations, all people, and all time and space, and yet somehow- you are here with us.

We know what it's like to be busy, and we cannot imagine how busy you must be, and still you are here. You are at this table. You are in this space. You hold us, while you hold our neighbor and our enemy, and you never let us go.

So, loving God, please break our hearts, so that you can fill them. For it is a messy world out there. There are hurricanes, and people shooting one another, and parents without children, and friends who need comforting, so be with us. Break our hearts and fill them up with your love.

Move in us. Shape us. Startle us.

And while you're at it, pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and pour out your Holy Spirit upon this ordinary bread and cup. May they become ordinary symbols of your extraordinary love.

And may we, like Jesus' disciples, be willing to heed your voice from the mouth of a stranger.

May we be willing to break bread even in this broken and hurting world, knowing that these

broken crumbs and dripping cup transform us and give us strength to be your hands and feet in this world.

God of us all, thank you for wrapping us in your arms. Thank you for filling us with so much more than just food. Thank you for the the abundance you create in the cracks of scarcity.

Please hear our prayer, as we pray together the prayer your son taught us to say, saying:

...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.

(prayer adapted by prayer by Sarah Are)

Words of Institution:

(Offered by the presider in whatever language most comfortable for him/her)

Prayer after Communion:

Gracious God,

Your fingerprints are everywhere.

We are so grateful that in this ordinary bread and this ordinary cup, we are able to sense your presence in this place, as you meet us at the table, yet again. Allow this simple, yet all-nourishing meal to enrich our hearts and open our eyes up to your will in this world.

Guide our own hands to trace your fingerprints until every crack of this world has felt your love, just as Jesus Christ called us to do.

Amen.

(prayer written by Sarah Are)

Friday Night

Processional: During processional, the slideshow of portraits featuring diversity of humanity will flash again on the screens. This video is first featured during the processional for opening night skit. Showing it again tonight will create continuity from the beginning of the week to the end.

Slideshow video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5Aay2kJ4DhQWc2bDVMV2V0TWc/view?usp=sharing>

Suggested song to play during processional: "You Will Remain," by All Sons & Daughters:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHNAtpp0LhY>

Scripture: Romans 12: 1-21 (Don't conform to the world but work to transform it)

Theme: Be the difference in the world. Go, be, serve, love.

Notes: For the prayers of the people, I will work with JP to gather prayers for the world from them and other conferees. Throughout the week we will walk around and ask youth to write one prayer they have for the world on a large sheet of paper (or, alternatively, a small, portable dry erase board). I will take pictures of them holding up their written prayers and incorporate their portraits into a short slideshow for the prayers of the people.

Opening visual meditation: "Vapor" by Gungor (Official video).

<https://youtu.be/fOH6qYTOo0c>

This film and song feature shots of nature and humans, inviting wonder and reverence for God's handiwork in the world.

(This will function as the opening prayer of adoration)

Call to Worship:

Leader 1: You are holy, O God, infinite and holy.

Leader 2: Trees clap their hands for you

All: Oceans, they dance for you

Leader 1: A billion suns rise for you

Leader 2: Clouds paint the skies for you

All: Mountains stand tall for you

Leader 1: Valleys bow down to you

Leader 2: Everything rises to you

All: We sing all our songs to you

Leader 1: Come like the dawn

Leader 2: Like grace

Leader 1: Like sunlight

All: Bring this world to life

Leader 2: Come like the rain

Leader 1: Like breath

Leader 2: Like springtime

All: Bring this world to life

(Prayer adapted from the lyrics/liturgy in the song, "Vapor" by Gungor. This is a free liturgy available for use: <http://www.theliturgists.com/vapor/>)

Call to Confession:

We've heard it said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." This week we've been inspired and our hearts are on fire to go make a difference in our lives. But, if we're being honest, we're also a bit afraid of what our lives will look like after we drive through the montreat gate. We're afraid we can't live up to all of these hopes and plans. We'll surely fail and mess up along the way. Let us now confess the ways in which our journeys will never be perfect or without mistakes, knowing that God can redeem all of our brokenness:

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: God of the universe, in this big, wide world, you have so much to offer. We have so much to see and do and explore.

And yet, in this big, wide world, we can also feel so very small.

Sometimes we allow our fears to get the best of us.

We confess that,

When we are called to reach out to someone in need,

All: we turn away.

(JP turns head and covers face with hands; freeze)

When we have the opportunity to serve in places beyond our comfort zones,

All: we retreat and hide.

(JP bows raises elbows together and bows head, crouching; freeze)

When we face difficult transitions and enter paths with unknown destinations,

All: we freeze with indecision.

(JP places hands on head as if it were to explode; freeze)

When we begin to doubt ourselves and God's purpose for our lives,

All: we shut others out.

(JP outstretches arms in front of body, to communicate being blocked off; freeze)

But God meets us in our fear, giving us the strength to move forward.

God gives us new ways to step forward into this world.

When we turn away, God changes our perspective.

(JP with turned head/face looks center and opens arms wide; freeze)

When we hide, God calls us back.

(JP crouched and hiding stands up with arms by sides; freeze)

When we freeze up, God puts us on the move.

(JP with hands on head steps one foot forward as if to walk; freeze)

When we shut down, God opens our arms wide.

(JP with hands being blocked off opens arms wide; freeze)

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader 1: So when push comes to shove,

Leader 2: have faith in God's love,

Leader 1: For love is what connects us,

Leader 2: and love is what has saved us.

Leader 1: And when this world makes no sense,

Leader 2: God's love makes all the difference.

(All JP's raise hands and heads to the sky)

Leader 1: Hear this good news: you have been freed to go serve the Lord your God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Leader 2: Wherever you may go, God goes too.

(JP's walk off stage and up aisles)

Passing of the Peace:

Rejoicing in the freedom of our forgiveness, please pass the peace of Christ with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination:

Leader: Holy one, as we come before you tonight, we come hungry for transformation. We can't return home pretending that nothing has changed within us. Our hearts have shifted. We are ready to be your hands and feet.

And so, may your Word become so much more than text on a page. May it take on flesh and come to life. May it transform us so we may transform the world for your good.

Amen.

Prayers for the world:

(This will consist of a short slideshow created and compiled by Lisle of youth holding up prayers they have written for the world. Music will accompany video. This will help us in our transition into the candlelight service).