

Fly: Daring New Heights

Friday Morning Worship - 9:30am-10:30am

Green Highlight (M) = Music

Purple Highlight (LS) = Lighting/Sound

Red Highlight (D) = Design

Orange Highlight (SD) = Stage Direction

Blue Lettering (B) = Text projected on screen

**** = People are asked to rise as they able**

SETTING THE SCENE

Video Announcements / Countdown Clock (LS)

Wider aisles for dancing. Dance floor is surrounded by seats. (SD)

Sounds/ Dance Music as people enter the space, imagery of people of all abilities dancing to music on screen (LS)

Chrysalis/butterfly development (D)

(chrysalis/butterfly development, butterfly is sitting on the cocoon with its wings outstretched)

Mistress of Ceremony:

Marcos Lord

[Only the voice is heard reading with beat under it] (SD)

“Finally the moment has arrived! The butterfly launches into it’s new environment –the heights that are now possible through transformation into what it was always meant to be. Nothing will hold it back. When the crowds made it impossible for the friends of the paralytic to get him to Jesus, they broke through the roof of the home where Jesus was.

We too, can be roof-breakers, we can “raise the roof” into new ways of moving and being in the world. What was bound has been freed! Let us boldly look like, act like, know ourselves to be the healed and freed people we truly are!”

Introduction

Rev. Elder Freda Smith and Rev. Elder Don Eastman

Freda

“Welcome to this final day of conference! We have arrived and it is time to celebrate!”

Don

“The MCC has experienced many transformations over our near 50 year existence. And our world has transformed as well. Many of us could not see marriage equality in so many countries! We have experienced many advancements in the recognition of the lives of LGBTQ people and our allies.”

Freda

“But we all know we still have so much more ground to travel in obtaining the dignity and safety of everyone who dares to dance in the rainbow tribe. So rather than travel by ground on this sacred journey toward our liberty, how about we **FLY!**

[raises hands as with wings] (SD)

Don

This morning we invite you celebrate through your dance, your movement, your laughter and your light **OUR Religious Liberty** to be an inclusive rainbow tribe. Show your thanksgiving and praise to God for MCC’s past, present and beautiful bright future for a beautiful and bright people!

Welcome to Club Emerge!

[Don motions as to welcome to the stage our Drag King and Queens.

Freda and Don exit the stage] (SD)

Marcos, Jane and Dan enter and begin to dance while encouraging others to move to the music. Either Dan or Marcos or both will lip sync to the song. (SD)

Dance Music

“Body Beautiful”

from *Too Wong Foo*

<https://youtu.be/hKZ9um4SRnA>

(spoken)

And where is the body
OOh yeah
Don't hate me cause I'm beautiful
And where is the body
Move over mother
'Cause I'm goin faster (faster)
Than you (than you)
Can drive (can drive)

The body's beautiful baby
That's right, I just can't help it, yeeah
It's not my fault, I was just born this way

(sung)

Get with the B-E-A-U-T-Y
Beauty
The body is beautiful
Body beautiful
Get with the B-E-A-U-T-Y
Beauty
The body is beautiful
I am body beautiful

I'm up and coming
I am a child
I'm legendary, hey
I'm free and wild
I am the ocean
And I rule the world
I'm sensual
I am body beautiful

My cha-cha pumps
I've got them on (I'm ret to go)
And I work the runway, baby
All night long
I am the one (the only one)
There is no other
I am mother
I am body beautiful

Get with the B-E-A-U-T-Y
Beauty
The body is beautiful
Body beautiful
Get with the B-E-A-U-T-Y
Beauty
The body is beautiful
I am body beautiful

Lights, camera, action
Satisfaction guaranteed
That's what I need

I celebrate the body
And enjoy good health
And I gets down with my bad self
It's all good from the front to the back
Two snaps and a clap for a body like that
It's a good damn thing I don't care what you say
Somebody beautiful, hey that's me

I am grand (grand diva)
I am the Queen (queen bee)
I masquerade (who am I)
I'm fantasy (your fantasy)
I am a house (a whole mansion)
Of elegance
Featuring (me)
I am body beautiful

Get with the B-E-A-U-T-Y
Beauty
The body is beautiful
Body beautiful
Get with the B-E-A-U-T-Y
Beauty
The body is beautiful
I am body beautiful

Spoken:
Don't hate me 'cause I'm beautiful
Everyone's beautiful in their own special way
Carry yourself like a Queen, and you will attract a King
Beauty comes from within
Whatever the mind can conceive and believe you will achieve
Do you believe that you are body beautiful? *Yes, YES! OOOHH YESS!*

There ain't enough words to express how I feel
I'm body beautiful true that's for real
Am who I am that's all I can be
Open up your mind so you're eyes can see

Body beautiful baby (work that body)
Body beautiful baby (work it, work it)
Body beautiful baby (work that body)
Body beautiful, that's me

Now I'm gonna tell ya like this, and I'm gonna tell you this way

I am body beautiful, that's all I can say
Bodies come in all different shapes and sizes
You're beautiful too just realize it
Can't you see, the beauty in me
Open up your heart, and set your mind free
Everybody's beautiful in their own way
Express yourself everyday
When you got joy on the inside, it shows on the out
Be confident and your beautiful, without a doubt
You're absolutely GOR-geous, don'cha know?
So you got the body beautiful goin'

Body beautiful baby (work that body)
Body beautiful baby (work it, work it)
Body beautiful baby (work that body)
Body beautiful, that's me (I am body beautiful)

Get with the B-E-A-U-T-Y
Beauty
The body is beautiful
Body beautiful
Get with the B-E-A-U-T-Y
Beauty
The body is beautiful
I am body beautiful

ACT ONE

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Jane:

Dan and Marcos on either side with attitude (SD)

Welcome to Club Emerge!

We are 'bout to have a Rave up in here - MCC style!

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the term "rave", it is a word that describes a high energy dance party!

We have much to celebrate and to be thankful for, so **THIS** is how we are going to begin our day together because **THIS** is the day our God has made. We **WILL** rejoice and be glad in it! I don't know about you, I am glad to see another day and I don't intend on wasting it through gloom and shade. I do have time for that. In fact, [looking to Dan and Marcos] none of us have time for that! [Dan and Marcos snap the fingers with attitude] (SD)

Dan

This may be nothing like you have ever seen before, but trust us, at Club Emerge we know how to get our praise on! This will be worship experience that will guarantee to make you feel the Spirit from tips of your toes to the top of your crown. So all of you Divas and Queens out there, go ahead and wear your crown. 'Cause you are royalty Baby! Each of you are beautiful Baby! But now it is time to celebrate the REAL Royalty among us! Lift your hands as you are able and bow your hearts as we lift our prayers to the One who made us beautiful!

Prayer

God of our dance, God of our song, God of our celebration, fall fresh upon us and help us to soar to new heights – unafraid and unashamed. We relinquish ourselves into your presence and feel you in our bodies! Bless you as we intend to be a blessing towards others!

We all say **Amen!**

INTRO to “Feelin Love” (M)

**Invitation to FLY
(aka Dance)**

Marcos:

As the butterfly that has been set free from its cocoon is ready to fly, we are like that butterfly ready to stretch our wings as our true selves. Now, in order to fly, you **must** be free. In order to be free, you **must** love yourself. Once you love yourself Honey, you are free to love others.

[Participants continue to move to the music with images on the screen.] (LS)

“Feeling Love” by Marc Vedo feat. Inaya Day
<https://youtu.be/90FpnSW2OII>

Kristine W - Be Alright
<https://youtu.be/9qdU2wPMDkw>

The music continues to play but at a softer volume as Brian Londrow comes to the podium. **(SD)**

ACT TWO

Introduction and Prayer for Preacher

Brian Londrow

I am from Detroit, where we know good music and dance. But I had to travel all this way to Victoria to experience Club Emerge. I also traveled to Victoria to introduce you all to the Grand Diva from De-toi (pronounce "Day Twah", the nickname for Detroit - **SD**). She has a word that will inspire and challenge.

Please welcome to the stage, Miss Shangra Lola or as her closest friends call her M Butterfly!

Roland - aka M Butterfly struts to the stage as the music fades into the next song. Roland extends his hand for Brian to kiss. (**SD**)

Brian Londrow

Let us pray. To the One in whom we live, move and have our being. Bless the message of your Butterfly and may we all be encouraged to fly to new heights. Amen!

Brian exits. Those on stage encourage everyone to move to the music. (**SD**)

"Most Precious Love"

by Blaze feat. Barb Tucker

<https://youtu.be/GnbKt7GWRKE>

Whoa precious, precious love, Whoa precious, precious love,
Whoa precious, precious love, Whoa precious, precious love

I was lost, and in the dark, searching for something to refill my heart
'though we're lost and so alone looking for a place to call my home

and I'm looking for... (Whoa precious, precious love,) precious love, found it,
found it, found it, (Whoa precious, precious love,)

It pulls inside of me all of the time, (Whoa precious, precious love,)
I've found the most precious love, (Whoa precious, precious love,) precious love,
found this love, I've found this love, I've found the love, found it, It's so spiritual,
Oh-Oh-Oh...

One day I found the One inside of me
Hmm, He was the only, one who understood my needs
although my lonely days seemed like a memory,
most precious love inside of me, Oh yeah-yeah-yeah,

(Whoa precious, precious love,) I've found the most precious love,
(Whoa precious, precious love,) I found it, (Whoa precious, precious love,)
It pulls inside of me all of the time, (Whoa precious, precious love,)
some more precious love, (Whoa precious, precious love,)

I've found the most precious love, (I'm so glad) precious love, (I'm so glad)
(I'm so glad) that i found it, that i found it, that i found it, that i found it,
Oohhh yeah-yeah (I'm so glad) (I'm so glad) (I'm so glad) that i found it,
that i found it, that i found it, that i found it, (It's so special) (I'm so glad) (I'm so glad)
(I'm so glad) that i found it, that i found it, that i found it, that i found it,
I found love, i found love, i found love, People burn. Ignite me,
I'm down on my knees, I asked the Lord to help me, help me please,
I needed to know a greater love for me, I needed to feel free, feel free...
I found love. (I'm so glad - that i found it) There's nothing better, and nobody
understands until ya have what this love, take the hand of the Spirit, of the Spirit...
(I'm so glad - that i found it) I've finally found my love, I've finally found my love...
A precious love, I've found a love, I've found a love, I've found a I've found a,
I've found a love, I've found a love, I've found a love, I've found a I've found a,
I've finally found a love.

Music continues to play at a lower volume underneath the reading **(M)**

Ancient and Contemporary Word Mash-Up

Luke 5:17-26 NIV

with modern sonnet, Author Unknown, dated 6 October 2015.

Jane:

One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there.
They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem.

Congregation:

To forgive or not to forgive, that is the question. (B)

Dan:

And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a
paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.
When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the
roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in
front of Jesus.

Congregation:

**When you are offended, whether real or imagined by a loved one, a friend, or by
someone esteemed, do you confront the other, or resolve to be patient? (B)**

Marcos:

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Congregation:

If by some stroke of luck, the offender apologized but turns around, talks glib gobbledygook, do you keep silent and still, looking cool as ice, or do you tell it to his face, that he's more than a crook? (B)

Jane:

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

Dan:

At such time as this, or any time for that matter, it is best to forgive whether he asks for it or not. Do not poison your heart with cyanide blather; bitterness can bother like a bat's up your butt!

Marcos:

So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Congregation:

Forgiveness frees the offended from the devil's deceit; makes you smile at the debtor, as his debt, you forfeit. (B)

[Mash-up flows into prayer ...] (M)

Joe Claussell -
Brighter Days

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow

AKA Miss Shangra Lola

AKA M. Butterfly

DJ playing a beat underneath (M)

Sermon Response
Free our hearts to fly!
Free our hearts to fly!
FREE OUR HEARTS TO FLY! (B)

ACT THREE
INTRO to “Real Love” (M)

Offering: Rev. Scottie Shelton
May have another version submitted soon

“The Council of Elders of the UFMCC is that body authorized by the General Conference to serve in a pastoral role and direct the spiritual life of the Fellowship.”

-MCC Bylaws, Article V.E.3, lines 445-446

That’s how it reads on paper. A few words that describe a very big role. The Council of Elders throughout the history of MCC has been a critical force for change, for balance, for spiritual leadership and heart.

Today’s offering goes to the Council of Elders fund.

First Nations people describe their elders as “Teachers, who know and who remember, who hold the collective memories of the tribe. They speak our language, they advise, defend, speak on behalf of the people and provide a place of grounding for the nation.”

They are literally, the beating heart of the people.

In 1969, 47 years ago, the first 5 Elders of MCC were put into place:

Rev Elder Richard Vincent, Rev Elder Richard Ploen, Rev Elder “Papa” John Hose, Elder Lou Loynes, with Rev Elder Troy Perry as moderator.

In 1972 Rev Elder James Sandmire was named to replace of Elder Loynes.

In 1973 3 new elders were elected, including the first woman elder: Rev Freda Smith.

In those days the work of the elders was constantly changing as the need for Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches continued to grow. There was interest all over the globe for the good news that MCC was proclaiming with full throated passion. The good news? That God loved you just the way you are. Such a simple message!

That same message continues today throughout the globe. It has shifted and refocused through our 47 years as the demands of each decade has required us to pivot to meet the need of each generation. We in MCC have always had to stay nimble on our feet! Today this is especially true of the MCC’s Senior Leadership in general and the Council of Elders in particular.

One example of our elder's powerful presence among us was during the AIDS years when we were suddenly overwhelmed by a disease we couldn't stop, a government that would not respond, and the many good people around us who stood by silently. During those years, our elders showed by their actions that MCC, which had already been a catalyst for reforming the church, was the spiritual sanctuary for the LGBT community, a spiritual touchstone as we each dealt with the specter of AIDS. We were all of us together, thrust into new, unknown territory – as a denomination, as a movement, as a people seeking asylum from the loss and death that tried to overwhelm us. MCC leadership acted. Immediately and with unswerving conviction. And we, as clergy and laity together, joined them in the fight.

And during these same years, the Department of Ecumenical Relations led by co-directors Rev Elder Nancy Wilson and William DeBaugh applied for and appealed to the National Council of Churches to recognize us as a denomination. It culminated 12 years later in 1993 when the NCC decided 90-81 to indefinitely “take no action” on MCC's membership. Our own Rev Elder Nancy led a dramatic demonstration when she, along with other MCCers and faith communities seized the microphones blasting the NCC and the church with large for its ongoing oppression of and God's infinite love for LGBT persons.

At one point Rev Elder Nancy shouted, “It's easier to get into HEAVEN than into the National Council of Churches!”

Truly, the story of our MCC elders is one of courage, of commitment and yes, spine chilling heroism. Along with every day humdrum of denominational business.

Yes...the elders of MCC have always been there on the front line...straining to be within view so that all can see and draw encouragement. They are literally the shepherd's heart of all LGBT people. Ready to step out and lead us forward into whatever is to come next. To seek the one, while pastoring the many, they respond to their calling with the knowledge of the scripture in Luke 12: 48 “To whom much is given, much is required.”

This past year, the Council of elders expanded by 7! And they need our help to get the work done. This is our moment to give back to our elders, who have given us so very much through the decades. Money to defray the costs they incur. Money that enable them to reach out further – because more and more of their time and talent is needed in the world.

This is also our time to say thank you, for our current group of 11 all the way back to original 5. Some of the original elders are here at conference. So for now, open your hearts, your wallets, and/or your checkbooks, and give generously to this very important fund. Then afterwards, find one of them and give them a big MCC hug! We are all so very blessed because of the amazing work they do.

Dan:

Now Honey, it is time for you all to fly yourselves to give to our offering. The offering baskets will be at the front - move it on up from wherever you are! Or we will come to you if you are not able to come to the front - just raise your hand!

However you choose to give, just be sure that heart of yours is free to fly so it can be free to love!

As the Dan is asking for the offering, DJ Janine continues to play the beat. Once the offering is called for, the music raises. People to "dance" their offering over to the basket - being mindful of those with mobility issues. (SD)

"Real Love"

by Clean Bandit and Jess Glynne

https://youtu.be/qdo_-U4PEsk

Oh, you've got the feeling that I wanna feel
Oh, you've got the feeling that I know is real, real, real

It's in the way you look, it's in the way you love
And I can see that this is real
It's in the way you talk, it's in the way you touch
And I can see

This is real, real, real, real love
This is real, real, real, real love
You give me that feeling, you give me that feeling
You give me that, you give me real love
You give me that feeling, you give me that feeling
You give me that, you give me real love

Oh, before you I was searching for a rarity
Oh, you showed me things I'd never thought that I would see

It's in the way you look, it's in the way you love
And I can see that this is real
It's in the way you talk, it's in the way you touch
And I can see

Beat is lowered so announcements can be made (M)

Announcements

Jane

Benediction

[Beat begins again as Roland brings Benediction (M)]

Closing Song

"Lift It Up" by Inaya Day

<https://youtu.be/S-P5uiLr26U>

(instrumental)

ADDITIONAL MUSIC if needed

- to keep the beat moving throughout the service

Kristine W - Be Alright

<https://youtu.be/9qdU2wPMDkw>

Joe Claussell - Brighter Days

No vid clip. Try itunes

DJ Meme - Chanson du Soleil

<https://youtu.be/TgGxuLMRUUU>

Basement Jaxx - Do Your Thing

<https://youtu.be/S12il1p8lpE>

Louie Vega - Elements of Life

<https://youtu.be/34Yb1MBSCdo>

Inaya Day - Lift it Up

<https://youtu.be/S-P5uiLr26U>