

Coming Out: Leaving Comfortable Places

Monday Night Opening Worship
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

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

(Those processing are lined up in the room surrounding the congregation)

2 Marshalls

4 volunteers to bring in the cross, water, bread and light

Governing Board

Clergy

Elders

Marshalls lead participants into Hall as they line the wall

(SD)

Lights fading

No video announcements or countdown (LS)

Sounds/Music as people enter the space (LS)

Chrysalis imagery / caterpillar appears (D)

Lights down (LS)

ACT ONE

Threshold Moment

50 Choir members standing on the stage representing those who have lost their lives in Orlando... low glow of lights on them (SD)

On digital backdrop: **#weareorlando (LS)** *silence*

Rev Alejandro Escoto, pastor of ICM Los Angeles, stands at podium and reads in Spanish as the words are project in English (SD)

At this moment
it is more important
than ever
that Metropolitan Community Churches
reaffirm,
reignite,
reenergize,
renew
its commitment
to being a strong voice,
strong presence,
strong message
of love and hope
in a hurting world
in order to save 50,
100,
150
and exponential multiples of 50
lives
that will continue to perish around the world
without the transformational work
of each one of us
and each one of our churches.
The trajectory of witness
has been,
is,
and will be
a saving grace.
#WeAREOrlando

"Big Bang" montage of historical MCC images (LS)

Overture begins (M)

[spotlight on the cocoon...]

*sustained moment in the beginning of overture
for the synopsis by a voice in a microphone—not seen] (SD)*

[**Dr. David Williams**] "At some point, we cannot contain ourselves - the selves God has created us to be. Coming out as people and as a church from what we have known into a new identity is filled with anxiety, unknowing and hope. Like the caterpillar, we instinctively know to embrace the darkness. Our time in the cocoon prepares us so that we may become something new. The angel said to Mary, "do not be afraid" and she is comforted and encouraged. We, too hear these words, as we participate in the Metropolitan Community Church's transformation!"

Overture continues as images on screen of caterpillar making its cocoon... (M /LS)

["what will this day be like" from the song Confidence from the sound of music, simply a flute and bass obstinate, so thin, and building and dancing then around songs like "coming together" and "brand new day" from the Wiz, then finishing with a big formal section of "in the midst of new dimensions." Goes right into the opening song for procession, which is a mash up of the gospel hallelujah and all are welcome.] (M)

Opening Hymn - Processional **

"Soulful Celebration Hallelujah/All Are Welcome"
SATB & Congregation

The other 50 choir members join the others on stage **(SD)**

The cross, water, bread and light process to be placed on the stage **(SD)**

Chorus 1: (B)

All are welcome. All are welcome. All are welcome. All are welcome in this place!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
All are welcome. All are welcome. All are welcome. All are welcome in this place!

Processional Begins:

Marshalls lead the participants down the isles to the centre/front - section 2 **(SD)**

Verse 1:

We'll build a world where love is found in the words we speak.
All are welcome. All are welcome.
For our God Omnipotent reigneth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Verse 2:

For our God Omnipotent reigneth.
For our God Omnipotent reigneth.
Hallelujah!
For Our God Omnipotent reigneth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Chorus 1

Verse 1

Verse 2

Verse 3:

Where Love shall live forever and ever.
Where Love shall live forever and ever.
Where Love shall reign forever and ever.
Where Love shall reign forever and ever.

Chorus 2:

Love shall reign forever and ever.
Yes, Love shall reign. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Love shall reign forever and ever.
Yes, Love shall reign. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Love shall reign forever and ever.
Yes, Love shall reign.

Bridge:
Love is found on Holy ground.
And Love shall reign forever and ever.
And Love shall reign forever and ever.

Chorus 3:
Love shall reign forever and ever.
Yes, Love shall reign. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
And Love shall reign for ever and ever.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Forever and ever.

Chorus 4:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

All are welcome. All are welcome.
All are welcome. All are welcome.
All are welcome. All are welcome.
All are welcome. All are welcome.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

(Dan invites the people to sit)

Entire Choir leaves the stage during applause **(SD)**

Opening Blessing

*Nancy stands at the center of the stage with three people
Sarah-Jane Ramage, Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson,)*

And four people carried in a bowl of water, communion bread and cup, a large candle and cross. (SD)

Nancy Wilson (1): “Welcome to the 26th General Conference gathering
of the Metropolitan Community Churches!”

[wait for applause] (SD)

Sarah-Jane: We have been sent an official welcome letter from the Premier of the Province of British Columbia, saying “I want to take this opportunity to commend the MCC for the dedication to providing a spiritual home for members of the global LGBTQ community. Your important work enables constructive communication that helps people to better understand one another - building bridges is key to making the world a more peaceful and inclusive place. Please accept my best wishes as you

elect a new Moderator and Governing Board. I hope you all enjoy the vibrant culture and attractions of our capital city while you are here. Sincerely, Christy Clark

Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson: And it is with deep gratitude and excitement that I offer you these words sent in an official letter from President Barack Obama:

“I send greetings to all those participating in the Metropolitan Community Churches General Conference. Scripture tells us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God, and the MCC has heeded this call in countless ways. For nearly 50 years, your church has opened its doors to the LGBT community—offering a safe space to reflect, grow and sow the seeds of progress in our ever-changing world. Your work to promote human and civil rights has united people in a spirit of fellowship and challenged us to envision society as it should be: loving, accepting, and undaunted by change. I join you in congratulating the Reverend Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson on her retirement, and I thank her for her dedicated service on my Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. As you come together to empower one another and people across the globe, I wish you the very best. - Barack Obama

Nancy: While these are important salutations from respected dignitaries, it is most fitting that we acknowledge and honor the First Nation peoples who first inhabited this land: all part of the Saanich Nation of Coast Salish peoples: the Songhees, Esquimalt, Tsartlip, Tseycum, Pauquachin, Scia'new, Tsawout and T'Sou-ke Nations. May you be blessed.

Sarah-Jane Ramage (2): [Greetings from the Governing Board]

It is my great pleasure as vice chair of the governing board and on behalf of the governing board to welcome you all to worship at our 26th general conference. Besides our greeting to you in the program booklet, we want to say how very excited we are to be here and hope you are too. I'm ready to worship together with you as a gathered community from around the world.

Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson (3): [Greetings from the Council of Elders]

Here we are. . .and we are here. It is time for us to BE MCC. To BE connected. To BE community. To BE loud. To BE quiet. To BE justice. To BE disturbers of the peace and yet to BE a people of peace. We have arrived from “around the globe to not only “BE” . . .yet to “BECOME” . . .to emerge into the beloved community that the Spirit is still creating in our midst. On behalf of the Council of Elders, welcome to this pivotal conference. Important decisions will be made that will determine our future for years to come. First, however, we worship. It is worship that connects us and grounds us and lifts our hearts for all that awaits us. Let us worship with all our hearts, for our worship is our joy!”

[Music begins under to “Coming Together” meas. 6 - 14 of overture, 1 -8 piano] (M)

Nancy moves to the podium with Dwayne and Sarah-Jane (SD)

Nancy: “We come to worship God.
To proclaim God’s name, for God is good...

All the time!
And all the time...
God is Good!”

Sarah-Jane: “In coming together, we have brought—at first glance—the ordinary things of our world to this space...
water, bread and light.”

Dwayne: “But on second thought, these things are not so ordinary. They speak of deeper and extraordinary things that emerge before us just as God’s plan for us is emerging within us...”

Cross, candle and water are placed on the high altar by three bearers (SD)

Nancy: “the water of ever-renewing life, washing away all doubt of our belovedness;”

Sarah-Jane: “the bread the unites us as one body, feeding us so we might feed the world;”

Dwayne: “the light that guides our way, showing us the call of God on this denomination;”

Nancy: “and the cross, a symbol the life, not death, love, not hate have the last word.”

Nancy: “From all corners of the world,
we are coming together,
daring—once again to come out (indeed we have become so good at that!)...”

Sarah-Jane: ... “to come out of our comfortable places into an unknown but blessed future and continue the ongoing march toward a just world for all!”

Dwayne: “So come—emerge—
to the water, to the bread, to the light.
Stand up! Hold on! Come out!”

Element bearers leave the stage with Sarah-Jane (SD)

(Coming Together) SATB w/Solo??

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_5FGGMXYZE&feature=youtu.be

Come to the water, The water will flow.
Stand to the night, See the light, let it grow.
Hold on for the hard winds are starting to blow.
Stand Up! Hold On! And swear you won't let go.

Whatever I said doesn't matter.
Whatever you said doesn't hurt.
Whatever we meant and whatever we did
Is lost in the water.

Whatever I felt I've forgotten.
Whatever I planned I released
But come take my hand,
Come down to the water,
Come down to the water.

Where people are coming together
And people are falling apart,
And no one can hide
We're caught in the tide
And punched in the heart.

People are harder than diamonds
And people are stronger than knives.
We breathe and we burn,
But we'll never return
For the rest of our lives,
For the rest of our lives.

People are coming together
Come down to the water, Come down to the water

Where people are coming together
And people are falling apart
We're branded and blind
And we try to rewind
To reset and restart

People are louder than fire,
And people are stronger than knives
We'll pick up the slack
But we'll never go back
For the rest of our lives,
For the rest of our lives

Come to the water, The water will flow.
Stand to the night, See the light, let it grow.
Hold on for the hard winds are starting to blow.
Stand Up! Hold On!

Choir "free styles" as they move to the stage **(SD)**

People are coming together! (repeated)
All across the water. (B)

Stand Up! Hold On!
And swear you won't let go.

Charles, Sarah and Alice move to the stage **(SD)**

Intro to Preacher

Rev Charles Tigard:

“After our readings, our preacher for the night is someone that has had a profound impact on MCC, to say the least. Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson was elected to the position of Moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) in 2005, following the retirement of the Founder of MCC, Rev. Elder Troy Perry, and again in July 2010. At this conference, we will celebrate her tenure and thank her from the bottom of our hearts. But tonight she will bring us a word once again—reminding us that our coming out is part of the story of faith and that God’s angels keep announcing to us that the time is now and now and now again!”

ACT TWO

One of the element bearers will place a bar stool, music stand and mic on the “poet spot” (SD)

Contemporary Word

Alice Chapman

[in a spotlight] (LS)

The Annunciation

“We know the scene: the room, variously furnished,
almost always a lectern, a book; always
the tall lily.
Arrived on solemn grandeur of great wings,
the angelic ambassador, standing or hovering,
whome she acknowledges, a guest.
But we are told of meek obedience. No one mentions
courage
The engendering Spirit
did not enter her without consent. God waited.
She was free
to accept or refuse, choice
integral to humanness.
Aren’t there annunciations
of one sort or another in most lives?
Some unwillingly undertake great destinies,
enact them in sullen pride,
uncomprehending.
More often those moments
when roads of light and storm
open from darkness in a man or woman,
are turned away from
in dread, in a wave of weakness, in despair
and with relief.
Ordinary lives continue.
God does not smite them.
But the gates close, the pathway vanishes.

She had been a child who played, ate, spelt
like any other child – but unlike others,
wept only for pity, laughed
in joy not triumph.
Compassion and intelligence
fused in her, indivisible.
Called to a destiny more momentous
than any in all of Time,
she did not quail,
only asked
a simple, “How can this be?”
and gravely, courteously,
took to heart the angel’s reply,
perceiving instantly
the astounding ministry she was offered:
to bear in her womb
Infinite weight and lightness; to carry
in hidden, finite inwardness,
nine months of Eternity; to contain
in slender vase of being,
the sum of power –
in narrow flesh,
the sum of light.
Then bring to birth,
push out into air, a Man-child
needing, like any other,
milk and love –
but who was God.”

[Solo voice, softly, slowly sings...] (M)

Spotlight fades on Alice, she stays in place (LS)

The presence of the Lord is here
The presence of the Lord is here
I feel it in the atmosphere
The presence of the Lord is here
The presence of the Lord is here

[piano underscoring continues - keep repeating meas. 1-10]

Ancient Word

Luke 1: 26-38

Sarah DeRooy

[in spotlight on the high altar] (LS)

“When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!” She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a

son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom." (B)

Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen...?" (B)

[musical underscoring begins to grow under] (M)

"The angel replied, 'The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God.'

Then Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.'" (B)

[drum counts off... into upbeat rhythm] (M)

Sarah and Alice exits stage and hands their mic to Emily (SD)

The presence of the Lord is here
The presence of the Lord is here
I feel it in the atmosphere
The presence of the Lord is here.
The presence of the Lord is here

The spirit of the Lord is here
The spirit of the Lord is here
I feel it in the atmosphere
The spirit of the Lord is here.
The spirit of the Lord is here.

The power of the Lord is here
The power of the Lord is here
I feel it in the atmosphere,
The power of the Lord is here.
The power of the Lord is here. (B)

[Charles get Nancy from the stage and brings her to the "preacher's spot" and lay hands upon her] (SD)

Everybody blow the trumpet
And sound the alarm
Because the Lord is in his temple
Let everybody bow
Let all the people praise Him now
The Lord is here

A blessing from the Lord is Here,

A blessing from the Lord is here;
I feel it in the atmosphere,
A blessing from the Lord is here,
A blessing from the Lord is here.

Everybody blow the trumpet
And sound the alarm
Because the Lord is in this temple
Let everybody bow
Let all the people praise God now
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is here. (B)

[keep rhythm section going, softly under prayer - vamp 3a in the music] (M)

Prayer for Speaker *Rev Charles Tigard*

“Extend your hands in blessing and let us pray for our preacher this evening!
God of power,
Jesus, friend,
Spirit that enlivens us,
we pray your mighty blessings upon this preacher this night.
Your blessings have poured in and through her
for so long on behalf of this body.
Give her your power in this moment,
speak a word to her heart that she might offer it to us.
We pray this in your many names, O God.
Your blessing is indeed here! Amen!”

[Nancy is escorted back to the podium] (SD)

I can feel the presence of the Lord
and I'm going to get my blessing right now. (4x)

A blessing from the Lord is Here,
A blessing from the Lord is here;
I feel it in the atmosphere,
A blessing from the Lord is here,
A blessing from the Lord is here. (B)

Sermon *Rev. Elder. Nancy Wilson*

[applause - piano as needed in transition] (M)

ACT THREE

Offering - *To benefit General Conference*

Lauren Bennett:

Intro ... Three years ago, I came to my first General Conference in Chicago. I marveled at conference. The the packed schedule, the moving liturgy, the most beautiful celebration of communion and the wonderful explosion of the unity of sex and spirit. I left conference with a palpable feeling that MCC is doing the work that I've yearned for and that MCC is home.

I remember thinking to myself that having Jennifer's job would be perfect – to get to work with the leaders of our movement to develop content that is rich and inspiring, giving fuel to go forth and minister with, challenging people to think differently while also creating space for rejuvenation.

In an unexpected sequence of events I find myself serving as the conference coordinator and even with all the emails, late nights, and so many spreadsheets, serving in this way is more meaningful than I even imagined.

It has been a joy to work with amazing teams and get to know MCCers from all over and has shown me that to Be MCC always means to have a mind toward justice even when doing seemingly menial tasks, like creating name tags. Thank you for your prayers, your ministry, and your presence.

Being MCC also means one needs to think creatively about how to stretch a dollar.

So tonight, I invite you to consider why you came to General Conference today. Maybe it was simply to cast a vote tomorrow or because your spouse made you come with. Or maybe it was because you want to be inspired or see your friends you only get to see at General Conference.

For me, I'm here because MCC pays me to be here. But even if I wasn't on staff, I couldn't miss a General Conference after experiencing my first in Chicago. So think about how past conferences have influenced you in the past. Consider how you might be moved this time, or how you have already been challenged. Your offering tonight benefits General Conference. It helps fly in our speakers, pay for this space, and give the infrastructure for a transformative, renewing experience.

Please pray with me:

Loving, gracious, almighty God, thank you for this global reunion; for those in this room, those online, and those who will be affected by all that happens at this General Conference. May we be one with you this week as we celebrate, listen, vote, and act. Guide us that we might be reminded of our shared responsibility to be transformative voices in the world. Voices that counter hate, violence, and exploitation.

God, sometimes you are as close to us as our own breath while at other times it is as though you are as far as the most distant star. Help us to be open this day and week to your ever present spirit. Allow us to move with unity, reverence, and excitement as we consider the work you have called us to.

Take these gifts from tonight and multiply them so that our movement might flourish as we reenergize by being together.

We pray all this and all that is in the silence of our hearts in your many names, Amen.

Offertory Song:

"Thrive"

Solo w/P&W (M)

Here in this worn and weary land
Where many a dream has died

Like a tree planted by the water
We never will run dry

So living water flowing through
God we thirst for more of You
Fill our hearts and flood our souls
With one desire

Just to know You and
To make You known
We lift Your name on High
Shine like the sun make darkness run and hide
We know we were made for so much more
Than ordinary lives
It's time for us to more than just survive
We were made to thrive

Into Your word we're digging deep
To know our Savior's heart

Into the world we're reaching out
To show them who You are

So living water flowing through
God we thirst for more of You
Fill our hearts and flood our souls
With one desire

Just to know You and
To make You known
We lift Your name on High
Shine like the sun make darkness run and hide
We know we were made for so much more
Than ordinary lives
It's time for us to more than just survive
We were made to thrive (B)

Marcia McFee

[over music]: "I invite you to turn and face the table in the center of this body!"

*[Dance/process in the communion elements to the center table
from all corners of the room] (SD)*

Joy Unspeakable, Faith Unsinkable, Love Unstoppable, Anything is possible
Joy Unspeakable, Faith Unsinkable, Love Unstoppable, Anything is possible
Joy Unspeakable, Faith Unsinkable, Love Unstoppable, Anything is possible
Joy Unspeakable, Faith Unsinkable, Love Unstoppable, Anything is possible

Just to know You and
To make You known
We lift Your name on High
Shine like the sun make darkness run and hide
We know we were made for so much more
Than ordinary lives
It's time for us to more than just survive
We were made to thrive

Whoa, oh, whoa, oh. Whoa, oh.

We were made to Thrive **(B)**

Communion

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson:

"It is time for us to more than just survive!
We were made to thrive!"

Rev Elder Hector Gutierrez: (In Spanish)

"All are welcome to this table that Jesus has set
right in the midst of God's beloved people!"

Rev Elder Tony Freeman:

"Bring only your desire to live, to thrive and to love.
And believe these things are possible...
Repeat after me...
Joy Unspeakable! **Joy Unspeakable!**
Faith Unsinkable! **Faith Unsinkable!**
Love Unstoppable! **Love Unstoppable!**
Anything is Possible! **Anything is Possible!**"

Rev. Elder Dr. Mona West:

"We have been transforming and transformed through the years
as the MCC started and grew.
Just as the disciples at that last meal with Jesus
had little idea about what would come next,
we gather at this table to hear Jesus' words of assurance, 'I am with you always!'"

Rev. Elder Darlene Garner:

“But Jesus also says, ‘go and be my body in the world.’
And to do that, you must come out... again.”

Song leader (Marcia) from center, “repeat after me...”
[sung, only accompanied by percussion]

Come out, come out, of your comfortable spaces
Come out, come out, of your comfortable spaces

Come meet Jesus in the strugglin’ places.
Come meet Jesus in the strugglin’ places. (B)

[percussion continues softly]

Rev. Elder. Dr. Nancy Wilson:

“The Living God/Goddess be with you!
And also with you!

The *Creator of All That Is* wove a cocoon and called it good.
A people were cradled and transformed and nurtured and loved.”

Rev. Elder Dr. Candace Shiltis:

“Until time passed and God desired to come out.
A babe born of the womb of life
entered our world and turned love into human form.”

Rev Elder Magarita Sanchez De Leon:

“He proclaimed justice in the midst of injustice
freedom for the oppressed
and healing for the harmed.”

Song leader (Marcia) from center [sung, only accompanied by percussion] (SD)

Have you not heard, every valley’s exalted
Have you not heard, every valley’s exalted

Mountains made low but the lowly are lifted
Mountains made low but the lowly are lifted (B)

Elder Nancy Maxwell:

“He touched ‘the untouchables.’
He loved ‘the unlovable.’
He sat at table with especially those others considered ‘unworthy.’
Not all were thrilled at his message of hope for ‘the least of these.’”

Rev Elder Dwayne Johnson (while Nancy raises bread):

“On the night in which he was betrayed,
he gathered with family around the table.
And he broke bread, as was the custom.

But then he said something no one would ever forget,
“This is my body, broken for you.
Whenever you gather and break bread, remember me.”

[Repeated in Spanish and Portuguese - Hector and Margarita]

Rev Elder Hector Gutierrez:

“En la noche en que fue traicionado,
reunido con la familia alrededor de la mesa.
Partió el pan, como era la costumbre.
Pero él dijo algo que nunca olvidarían,
“Este es mi cuerpo, entregado por ustedes.
Cuando se reúnan y partan el pan, recuérdense”

Rev Elder Magarita Sanchez De Leon:

O Senhor Jesus, na noite em que foi traído, pegou o pão e deu graças a Deus. Depois partiu o pão e disse: “Isto é o meu corpo, que é entregue em favor de vocês. Façam isto em memória de mim.”

Rev Elder Pat Burmgarder *(while Nancy raises cup):*

“Likewise he took the cup and after giving thanks
he said, “This is my blood, given for you.
Whenever you gather, lift a glass in my name and remember me.”

[Repeated in Spanish and Portuguese - Hector and Margarita]

Rev Elder Hector Gutierrez:

“De la misma forma, tomó la copa y dio gracias diciendo,
“Esta es mi sangre, derramada por ustedes.
Cuando se reúnan, levanten una copa en mi nombre y recuérdense”

Rev Elder Magarita Sanchez De Leon:

Assim também, depois do jantar, ele pegou o cálice e disse: “Este cálice é a nova aliança feita por Deus com o seu povo, aliança que é garantida pelo meu sangue. Cada vez que vocês beberem deste cálice, façam isso em memória de mim.” De maneira que, cada vez que vocês comem deste pão e bebem deste cálice, estão anunciando a morte do Senhor, até que ele venha.

Song leader from center [sung more slowly, a capella]

Come out, the kin-dom of God is upon us
Come out, the kin-dom of God is upon us

Come out the wilderness, follow Jesus
Come out the wilderness, follow Jesus (B)

Marcia McFee:

“I invite you to raise your hands in the ancient Christian posture for prayer.”

Rev. Elder. Dr. Nancy Wilson:

“Pour out your Spirit upon these your faithful servants.
Let us become food for a hungry world.
Let us become your body, your love,
opened for all to see.
Nudge us from our comfortable places
so that we might dare again and be born anew for your sake
and for the sake of all who are yearning for freedom.”

Marcia McFee:

“Connect with your neighbor, a hand on a shoulder, holding hands or
whatever is comfortable for you.”

Rev Elder Ines-Paul Baumann:

Gott, in Stille gedenken wir all derjenigen, die noch immer leiden, gefangen hinter Mauern aus
Zweifel, Selbsthass, Verzweiflung, Hoffnungslosigkeit, Trauer, Gram, Heimatlosigkeit,
Obdachlosigkeit, Gewalt, Angst, Furcht und Unterdrückung.

“In this moment, God, we hold silent vigil on behalf of all those
who are hurting still, locked in prisons of doubt, self-loathing, despair,
grief, hunger, homelessness, violence, fear and oppression,
especially those lost, injured and grieving in Orlando and all across the world
where violence claims life and vitality.”

Silence

Rev. Elder. Dr. Nancy:

“Make us one for your sake.”

*[all Elders join in one by one, repeating this phrase with more energy...
over and over until all people are repeating] (SD)*

At the height of the repetition, [sung, piano joins]

Come out, come out, of your comfortable spaces
Come out, come out, of your comfortable spaces

Come meet Jesus in the strugglin' places.
Come meet Jesus in the strugglin' places. (B)
[possible repeat to finish]

Instructions for Communion

[as servers take elements and get into place]

Marcia McFee:

“As our tradition in the Metropolitan Community Churches, we celebrate an Open Communion table. That means you do not need to be a member of this denomination or of any denomination in order to participate. All you need is the openness to receive what God has for you.

You are invited to come to any one of the communion stations as directed by the ushers. You will be served bread and juice and a prayer offered over you. Come together with others or alone, whatever you need in this moment. Gluten free stations...
Come, for all is ready.”

Communion Servers say to people:

“Creator God help this one, your child, to have the courage to come out from the comfortable places of hiding and into your marvelous light. May they know you have a wonderful adventure in store!
In your many names I pray, Amen.”

Communion Music:

1) Come Just As You Are

Come just as you are; Hear the Spirit call.
Come just as you are; Come and see, come, receive;
Come and live forever

Life everlasting, and strength for today;
Taste the Living Water, and never thirst again.

Ven tal como eres; Escucha a Dios llamar.
Ven tal como eres tu; Ven y ve, recibirás,
ven y vive por siempre.

Vida abundante; Fuerza y poder;
Prueba el Agua Viva, y ya no tendrás sed.

Come just as you are; Hear the Spirit call.
Come just as you are; Come and see, come, receive;
Come and live forever more.

2) As The Deer

Verse 1:

As the deer panteth for the water so my soul longeth after thee.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship thee.

Chorus:

You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone, may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.

Verse 2:

You're my friend and you are my Savior, of Your praises I will sing.
I love you more than any other so much more than anything.

Chorus:

Verse 3:

I want you more than gold or silver only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver, and the apple of my eye.

Chorus

Chorus

Ending:

And I long to worship Thee.

3) From The Inside Out

Verse 1:

A thousand times I've failed, still your mercy remains.
And should I stumble again, still I'm caught in Your grace.

Chorus 1:

Everlasting, Your light will shine when all else fades.
Never ending, Your glory goes beyond all fame.

Chorus 2:

My heart and my soul I give you control. Consume me from the inside out, Lord.
Let justice and praise, become my embrace, to love You from the inside out.

Verse 2:

Your will above all else, my purpose remains,
the art of losing myself in bringing You praise.

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

Chorus 1

Chorus 3:

And the cry of my heart is to bring You praise. From the inside out, Lord, my soul cries out.

Chorus 2

Chorus 1

Chorus 3

Chorus 1

Chorus 3

Ending:

From the Inside out, Lord, my soul cries out. From the inside out, Lord, my soul cries out.

4) The Potter's Hand

Verse 1:

Beautiful God, wonderful Savior,

I know for sure all of my days are held in Your hand;
crafted into Your perfect plan.

Verse 2:

You gently call me into Your presence, guiding me by Your Holy Spirit;
teach me, dear God, to live all of my life through Your eyes.

Bridge:

I'm captured by Your holy calling, set me apart, I know You're drawing
me to Yourself; Lead me, God, I pray.

Chorus

Take me, mold me, use me, fill me;
I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me;
I give my life to the Potter's hand.

Verse 2

Bridge

Chorus

Chorus

5) Shout to the Lord

Verse 1:

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength.
Let ev'ry breath all that I am, never cease to worship You.

Chorus1:

Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praises we sing.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your Name.

Chorus 2:

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to promise I have in You.

Verse 1

Chorus 1

Chorus 3:

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to promise I have in ...

Chorus 1

Chorus 4:

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to promise I have,
Nothing compares to promise I have,
Nothing compares to promise I have in You.

6) How Great is Our God

Verse 1:

The splendor, You we see, clothed in majesty,
let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
You wrap yourself in light and darkness tries to hide
and trembles at Your voice, trembles at Your voice.

Chorus:

How great is our God, sing with my how great is our God
and all will see how great, how great is our God.

Verse 2:

Age to age You stand and time is in Your hands,
beginning and the end. The God-head Three in One,
Creator, Spirit, Son, the Lion and the Lamb.
Lion and the Lamb.

Chorus

Chorus

Chorus

Chorus

Chorus

Chorus

Chorus

7) I Stand in Awe (even if we skip other songs, this will be the last song)

Verse 1:

You are beautiful beyond description, too marvelous for words,
too wonderful for comprehension, like nothing ever seen or heard;
Who can grasp Your infinite wisdom, who can fathom the depth of Your love;
You are beautiful beyond description, Majesty enthroned above.

Chorus:

And I stand, I stand in awe of You; I stand , I stand in awe of You;
Holy God, to Whom all praise is due, I stand in awe of You.

Verse 1:

Chorus:

Chorus: **(B)**

Prayer after Communion

Nancy extemporaneous

Announcements :

Lauren Bennett

Closing Song**

In The Midst of New Dimensions - Congregational

Verse 1:

In the midst of of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

Chorus:

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever,
now and ever more.

Verse 2:

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

Chorus

Verse 3:

As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.

Chorus

Verse 4:

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.

Chorus (B)

Recessional during Hymn - as they came in ... they will go out