

Let Go:

Leaving Behind What We Don't Need

Thursday Evening Worship - Healing Service
6.30pm-8.00pm

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 / Images from Instagram (LS)
Sounds/Music as people enter the space (LS)

Lights fading

Chrysalis imagery (D)

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

Introduction

["Let It Go" instrumental under] (M)

Tarja Pyykko:

What do we need to let go of in order to fly? The butterfly must let go of the cocoon or it will die.

Can we be like Esther? Her courageous decision to risk status and safety ensured that her community was spared from extinction. Tonight you are invited to consider deeply what holds us back from our own life and wellbeing, our own forward-motion and start the process of letting it go.

Gathering

Opening Song**

"Let It Go" - Luba

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK3L6ccMQ4U>

Too many doubts
Too much fear
Too much danger

When society constricts
Our human nature

Live by the rules
Live by the laws
Live by commandments
Notions preconceived
Can lead to utter madness

Let it go, let it go
Let it free your body
Let it move your soul
Let it go
We are made, we are not born

Let it go, let it go
Let it free your body
Let it move your soul
Let it go
We are made, we are not born

Learn to convert
Learn to assert
Learn to abandon
Ideologies and
Disciplines at random

Lay down the laws
Lay down the rules
Lay down commandments
Lift the sanctions
That restrict this woman's madness

Let it go, let it go
Let it free your body
Let it move your soul
Let it go
We are made, we are not born

Let it go, let it go
Let it free your body
Let it move your soul
Let it go
We are made, we are not born

Uniformity
Conventionality
Is the bane of our existence
Keeps us safely at a distance

Nonconformity
Unconventionality
Is to dare to be
Let your hair down, can't you see

Let it go, let it go
Let it free your body
Let it move your soul
Let it go
We are made, we are not born

Let it go, let it go
Let it free your body
Let it move your soul
Let it go
We are made, we are not born (B)
(People are invited to take their seats)

ACT ONE

Introduction of Preacher

Rev. Elder Mona West

“Rev. Elder Margarita Sánchez De León, is a Puerto Rican living in Mexico City with her spouse, Frida, from the Netherlands and they are mothers of Oshadi and Siboney, girl and boy twins of six years old. Truly, they have let go of the idea that “home” is a particular place but is truly where we know the love of intimate and extended family! Margarite was appointed Elder in 2015 and currently is part of the Theologies Team and the Academic Dean of the ‘Darlene Garner Institute for Ibero-American Leadership Formation.’

Tonight we welcome her insight into the healing power of God.
But right now we are going to take time to remember and give thanks to God for those who have transitioned from this life to the next since we met last.”

Act of Remembrance

“Living Memory” by Brian Andreas

[READER TBC -

perhaps Mike’s friend whose loved one is going to be remembered?]

I carry you with me into the world,
into the smell of rain
& the words that dance between people
& for me, it will always be this way, walking in the light,
remembering being alive together

[A video presentation of those we have lost since the previous General Conference. As names are read, candles are processed to the high altar. At the end, the words “Please call out the names of those who want to remember at this time”.] (LS)

Prayer -

Same person as the Reader

“O Holy One of Life.
In you we have breath, and the totality of our being.
We thank you for life
spilling over the hills of our grief
and for your Eternal Life
filling the wells in our soul and our senses.
We invite you this day
to come in the midst of remembrances
of death, doubt and disappointment.
Lift us, O Lord, into light
that embraces the whole of us.
Draw us together to celebrate the love and laughter
of lives lived in your glory.
Connect us, O Holy One of Life,
so that those hearts that need to feel there is an end to sorrow
will experience your fullness of life once again.
In Christ’s name we pray. **Amen.**”

ACT TWO

Contemporary Word

[choir is getting into place as music vamps under reading]

Jim East:

“How
Can we sing a new song from
The valley of shards?
We are broken vessels
In a fissured land,
Indeed
We can hear
The parchment earth crack open
Beneath our feet even
As we speak.

What
Can we do *except*
Sing songs of protest, lamentation, hope
From split and bleeding lips
In the valley of splintered dreams?
What, except believe
That earth, like a fragile egg
Cracks open to expose
New quivering of life?”

Song: **"We Are One"**
Brian Tate - <http://youtu.be/5cbsFKnGIMc>

When we walk, when we sleep,
When we rise, we are one.

When we laugh, when we sing,
When we cry, when we run,
We are one.

CHORUS: And we shall love one another
With all our hearts.
And we shall care for each other
With all our soul and our might.

When we stand, when we fall
When we rise, we are one.
In the cold, in the heat,
In the dark, in the sun,
We are one.

CHORUS

When we're hurting one another,
That's the way we hurt ourselves.
With our sisters and our brothers
We will, We will RISE!

And we do, and we try,
We must live or we die,
We will reach, we will climb,
We will rise, we will fly,
We are one.

And these words shall be forever
Within our hearts,
And we shall teach them to our children
And remember them in our lives.

When we walk, when we sleep
When we rise, we are one,
When we laugh, when we sing,
When we cry, when we run,

We are strong
We belong
We are one!

Ancient Word

Esther 4 from The Message

Narrator - Cate Bransfield-Stacer:

Mordecai mourned when he found out what had happened. He ripped his clothes, put on sackcloth, and wiped ash onto his body. Then he went through the city, weeping loudly in anguish.

When he came to the king's gate, *not far from the palace*, he stopped since those wearing sackcloth were not permitted to enter it *and disrupt the mood of the court*.

In the meantime, as word of the king's decree began to spread throughout all of the provinces, terrible distress grew among the Jews. They fasted, wept, and screamed out *in misery*. Like *Mordecai*, many put on sackcloth and ashes.

Back in Susa, Esther's maids and eunuchs *witnessed Mordecai mourning outside of the king's gate*. They went and reported to the queen *all that they saw*.

Esther - Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos:

What is wrong? Why is he doing this? It breaks my heart to think of him like this. Take these clothes to Mordecai so he can put them on instead of wearing sackcloth.

Narrator - Cate Bransfield-Stacer:

But *when the servants arrived*, Mordecai refused to wear the clothes *Queen Esther had sent*. So Esther sent for Hathach, who was one of the king's eunuchs assigned to serve her.

Esther - Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos:

Hathach, go to Mordecai *at once*. Find out why he is mourning, *and report back to me all that he says*.

Narrator - Cate Bransfield-Stacer:

Hathach went to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. Mordecai told the queen's servant everything that had happened and how much money Haman had pledged to place into the royal treasury in exchange for the destruction of the Jews. Then he gave Hathach a copy of the order for mass murder of the Jews, the same order issued in the city of Susa.

Mordecai - Knut Panknin:

Show it to Esther. Tell her *everything I have told you*. Convince her to go before her king and plead for his favor, *not only for her life, but also for the lives of her people*.

Narrator - Cate Bransfield-Stacer:

Hathach returned to Esther and told her everything Mordecai had said. Esther ordered Hathach to *return to the city gate and reply to Mordecai*.

Esther - Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos:

How am I supposed to see the king? It's known *throughout the land*, from *the greatest of the king's officials* to the common folk who live in the provinces, that any person who approaches the king in the inner chamber without being invited is sentenced to death. That's the law! There's only one exception, and that's if the king were to hold out the gold scepter to that person and spare his or her life. It's been 30 days since the king last summoned me!

Narrator - Cate Bransfield-Stacer:

Hathach *and the other servants* took Esther's response to Mordecai.

Mordecai - Knut Panknin:

Tell Esther, “Don’t be fooled. Just because you are living inside the king’s palace doesn’t mean that you out of all of the Jews will escape *the carnage*. *You must go before your king*. If you stay silent during this time, deliverance for the Jews will come from somewhere, but you, *my child*, and all of your father’s family will die. And who knows? Perhaps you have been made queen for such a time as this.”

Narrator - Cate Bransfield-Stacer:

Once again, Hathach returned to Queen Esther with Mordecai’s message. In turn she sent a reply back to Mordecai.

Esther - Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos:

Tell Mordecai, “*In preparation for my audience with the king*, do this: gather together all the Jews in Susa, and fast *and pray* for me. *Intercede for me*. For three days and nights, abstain from all food and drink. My maids and I will join you in this time. And after *the three days*, I will go in to the king *and plead my people’s case*, even though it means breaking the law. And if I die, then I die!”

Narrator - Cate Bransfield-Stacer:

Mordecai left *the king’s gate* and put all of Esther’s instructions into action.

Prayer for Preacher

[Speaker to come out of the ‘people’]

Rev. Elder. Dr. Mona West:

“There’s something stirring tonight, God..

But sometimes we are so sure we know “what’s what” that we forget to listen. We forget that you might have a message for us through your servant Margarita!

Open us, God.

Help us let go of what WE think, into what YOU want us to hear. And bless Rev. DeLeon with the power of your Holy refining Spirit! Amen!”

Sermon

Rev. Margarita Sanchez DeLeon

Sermon Response

[applause - walking music as needed in transition]

Offering

Matching Gift for MCC’s Future

Brylee Grubb Erwin

MCC has always been blessed with a generous heart -- our churches and people give and give. I know, I’ve grown up in MCC, and been to many General Conferences.

This evening, we have an amazing opportunity! Someone in MCC, someone who cares about MCC’s mission right now, and our vision for the future, gave \$100,000 thousand dollars this month to our denomination, and tonight we have been challenged by that person to match it!

I know we have very determined people and know through the grace of God we can match this gift. I want MCC to be here for the next generation, and the one after that. Don't you?

Tonight, you can give an offering in the plate, or you can put a pledge card in the plate, and you have until October 6 th , of this year, to fulfill it. There are lots of ways to give, and all of you give every day to make the world a better place. But I am challenging us to do something we have never done before in MCC, match a really big gift, with our hearts and our resources. Every gift tonight, and in the months to come, counts. I am giving a special gift this evening, as are members of my family who are here.

So, let's Be MCC, let's Be joyful and let's be generous tonight! We can do it together!

Offering Song

"Let Go, Let God"

by Dewayne Woods

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5hf86_hlBk

I couldn't seem to fall asleep
There was so much on my mind
Searching for that peace
But the peace I could not find
So then I kneeled down to pray
Praying help me please
But then God said you don't have to cry
Cause I'll supply all your needs

As soon as I stop worrying,
Worrying how the story ends
I let go and I let God
Let God have God's way

That's when things start happening
When I stopped looking at back then
I let go and I let God
Let God Have God's way

There's so much going on
Sometimes I can't find my way
And often times I struggle
Struggle from day to day
I have to realize that it's not my battle
Not my battle to fight
I have to know if I put it in your hands
Everything will be alright

As soon as I stop worrying,
Worrying how the story ends
I let go and I let God

Let God have God's way

That's when things start happening
When I stopped looking at back then
I let go and I let God Have God's way
Let God Have God's way

Let go, let God
Let go, and let God
let go, let God
Oh let go and let God
Let go, and let God
My brother let go and let God
My sister you can't handle it,
Let God
Oh let go and Let God

Let go and Let God
Let go and Let God
Let go and Let God
God's the only one with the answers just let God
Let go and Let God
God can handle it all, yes God can
Let go and Let God
With tears in your eyes just let God
Let go and Let God
God feels your pain
Let go and Let God
And he know your heart
Let go and Let God
God knows your issues
Let go and Let God
God knows your struggles
Let go and Let God
So let go and Let God

Soon as
As soon as I stop worrying, soon as I stopped worrying
Worrying how the story ends Then and only then can I ,
I let go and I let God I can let go
Let God have God's way I can let God, Let God have his way
That's when, that's when
That's when things start happening everything will turn around yes it will
When I stopped looking at back then when I stopped looking at way back then, I can
I let go and I let God I can let go I can let God
Let God Have God's way Oh, Soon as

As soon as I stop worrying, Oh~

Oh yeah~ That's when things start happening
My body was healed and my worries were cast aside as soon as
Soon as I stopped worrying
When I threw up both of my hands and I gave it over to God
That's when things
That's when things start happening
When I let go and I let God

ACT THREE

Healing Stations (about 20-30 mins)

Reader TBC:

Services of healing have always been a special time for the people of the MCC church. Perhaps more than any other denomination, this community has known the need for healing touch, for healing of body, mind and spirit. Healing happens in many ways and through many forms. Tonight there are many stations that offer several avenues into the healing journey.

There are prayer partners along the front, people who will pray with you over any matter. They have oil for anointing if you so choose. Oil has been used since ancient times by peoples around the world as a sign of healing touch.

Along the side walls there are two stations with bowls of water and special dissolving paper. You are invited to write those things that you want to see washed away by God's healing grace on a piece of paper and stir it around in the water until it disappears.

In the middle transverse aisle, there are communion stations. Feel free to go alone or with others and partake of the meal that Jesus continues to offer as sustenance and grace for whatever ails your heart.

If you would like hands-on healing touch this night, there are stations where you can have non-scented lotion rubbed on your hands, or other stations where those who are Reiki practitioners are waiting to help move healing energy within you.

Maps of the world are projected onto the back walls and we invite you to offer healing for the world - going there to touch a place in the world and pray for those in need of healing there. Perhaps it is your own home church or somewhere you have no connection to yet. You'll find that we have highlighted the emerging MCC churches on that map for special prayers. (map here https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_Z58B_y_PqPSEZFOGFB0XNxFpTYnN1dy0yUms4Y1ZkYTIV) (LS)

And if you prefer to simply stay in your seat and pray, we have provided a small labyrinth and doodle prayer to assist in your meditation.

Choose none, one or all. Let your spirit guide you. Let the music wash over you. Let the healing begin.

- *Prayer partners with anointing oil (20 people across the front)*
- *Dissolving paper station (2 stations with 3 bowls of water each - one table on each side)*
 - *Self-communion stations (6 high top cocktail tables - center transverse aisle)*
 - *Hand touch station - lotion or not (10-15 people - along sides)*

- Hands-on healing/Reiki (10-15 people - along sides)
- Prayer doodling in seats (on a handout) Or an app! Maybe <http://doodle.ly/doodles/#doodler>
- Finger Labyrinth in seats (on a handout) Or an app! (¼ page double-side hard copies)
- Healing prayer for the world - map based - projected (2 projectors in back of house) - lay hands on the map. Highlight emerging churches.

Songs during healing stations time:

“Here I Am To Worship”

Verse 1:

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness;
 Opened my eyes let me see.
 Beauty that made this heart adore You,
 Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus:

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
 Here I am to say that You're my God.
 You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
 Altogether wonderful to me.

Verse 2:

God of all days, Oh so highly exalted;
 Glorious in heaven above.
 Humbly You came to the earth You created,
 All for love's sake became poor.

Chorus

Chorus

Bridge:

I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.
 I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

Bridge

Chorus

Chorus (B)

“Hungry”

Verse 1:

Hungry I come to You for I know you satisfy.
 I am empty but I know Your love does not run dry.

Bridge:

So I wait for You, So I wait for You,

Chorus:

I'm falling on my knees, offering all of me.
 Jesus You're all this heart is living for.

Verse 2:

Broken, I run to You for Your arms are open wide.
 I am weary but I know Your touch restores my life.

Bridge
Chorus
Chorus

Instrumental section

Bridge
Bridge
Chorus
Chorus **(B)**

Instrumental section

“Power of Your Love”

Verse 1:

God, I come to You, let my life be changed, renewed;
Flowing from the grace that I found in You.
And God I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me
Will be swept away by the power of Your love.

Chorus:

Hold me close, let Your love surround me.
Bring me near, draw me to Your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle,
And I will soar with You. Your Spirit leads me on by the power of Your love.

Verse 2:

God unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face;
The knowledge of Your love as You live in me.
God renew my mind, as Your will unfolds in my life
In livin' every day by the power of Your love.

Chorus
Chorus

Ending:

And I will soar with You; Your Spirit leads me on by the power of Your love.

“Draw Me Close”

Verse 1:

Draw me close to you, never let me go.
I lay it all down again to hear you say that I'm your friend.
You are my desire, no one else will do
'Cause nothing else can take your place to feel the warmth of your embrace.
Help me find the way, bring me back to you.

Chorus:

You're all I want, You're all I've ever needed!
You're all I want, help me know you are near.

Verse 1

Chorus
Chorus
Chorus
Chorus

“Wonderful, Merciful Savior”

Verse 1:

Wonderful, Merciful, Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would've thought that a lamb could rescue us and ascend?
O, you rescue us and ascent.

Verse 2:

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our heart have hopelessly lost the way.
O, we've hopelessly lost the way

Chorus:

You are the one that we praise. You are the one we adore.
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

Verse 3:

Almighty, infinite Maker, faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne,
O, we're falling before the throne.

Chorus
Chorus

“(10,000 Reasons) Bless The Lord”

Chorus:

Bless the Lord, oh, my soul, oh my soul. Worship Your holy name.
Sing like never before, oh, my soul.
I worship your holy name.

Verse 1:

The sun comes up. It's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

Chorus

Verse 2:

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.
You're name is great and you're heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Chorus
Instrumental section

Verse 3:

And on that day when my strength is falling,
the end draws near and my time has come,
still my soul will sing Your praise unending
ten thousand years and then forever more.

Chorus
Chorus

Tag:
I will worship Your holy name.
Lord, I worship You holy name.
Sing like never before, oh, my soul.
I worship Your holy name.
I will worship your holy name.
Lord, I worship You holy name.

“Mighty To Save”

Verse 1:
Ev'ryone needs compassion, love that never failing. Let mercy fall on me.
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Saviour, the hope of nations.

Chorus:
Saviour, You can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save, You are mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation, He rose and conquered the grave, Jesus conquered the grave.

Verse 2:
So take me as You find me, all my fears and failures. Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow ev'rything I believe in. Now I surrender.

Chorus
Chorus

Bridge:
Shine Your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory we have been set free.
Jesus, Shine Your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory we have been set free.

Chorus
Chorus
Bridge
Bridge

“All Who Are Thirsty”

Verse:
All who are thirsty, all who are weak,
come to the fountain, dip your heart in the streams of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away
in the waves of his mercy, as deep cries out to deep.

Chorus 1:
We sing, come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, lord Jesus, come.
Come, lord Jesus, come.

Come, lord Jesus, come.

Verse
Chorus 1

Chorus 2
Holy spirit, come.
Holy spirit, come.
Holy spirit, come.
Holy spirit, come.

Bridge:
As deep cries out to deep.
As deep cries out to deep.
As deep cries out to deep.
As deep cries out to deep.

Chorus 1

“Holy Spirit, Rain Down”

Verse 1:
Holy Spirit rain down, rain down.
Oh comforter and friend, how we need Your touch again.
Holy Spirit rain down, rain down.

Bridge:
Let Your power fall. Let Your voice be heard
Come and change our hearts, as we stand on Your Word
Holy Spirit rain down

Verse 1
Bridge

Chorus:
No eye has seen. No ear has heard.
No mind can know what God has in store.
So, open up heaven. Open it wide.
Over your church, and over our lives.

Chorus
Chorus

Verse 1
Bridge
Bridge

Closing Song**
“Shake It Off”

Taylor Swift (Postmodern Jukebox) Congregational
<http://play.riffstation.com/?v=Tv94swj4sjo>

I stay out too late
Got nothing in my brain
That's what people say, mmm-mmm
That's what people say, mmm-mmm

I go on too many dates
But I can't make them stay
At least that's what people say, mmm-mmm
That's what people say, mmm-mmm

But I keep cruising
Can't stop, won't stop moving
It's like I got this music
In my mind
Saying, "It's gonna be alright."

'Cause the players gonna play, play, play, play, play
And the haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate, hate
Baby, I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake
I shake it off, I shake it off
Heart-breakers gonna break, break, break, break, break
And the fakers gonna fake, fake, fake, fake, fake
Baby, I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake
I shake it off, I shake it off **(B)**

I never miss a beat
I'm lightning on my feet
And that's what they don't see, mmm-mmm
That's what they don't see, mmm-mmm

I'm dancing on my own (dancing on my own)
I make the moves up as I go (moves up as I go)
And that's what they don't know, mmm-mmm
That's what they don't know, mmm-mmm

But I keep cruising
Can't stop, won't stop grooving
It's like I got this music
In my mind
Saying, "It's gonna be alright."

'Cause the players gonna play, play, play, play, play
And the haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate, hate
Baby, I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake
I shake it off, I shake it off
Heart-breakers gonna break, break, break, break, break
And the fakers gonna fake, fake, fake, fake, fake
Baby, I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake

I shake it off, I shake it off (B)

Benediction

Rev. Elder Margarita

extemporaneous

Shake it!

'Cause the players gonna play, play, play, play, play
And the haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate, hate (haters gonna hate)

I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake

I shake it off, I shake it off

Heart-breakers gonna break, break, break, break, break (mmmm)
And the fakers gonna fake, fake, fake, fake, fake (and fake, and fake, and fake)

Baby, I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake

I shake it off, I shake it off

Shake it off, I shake it off,
I, I, I shake it off, I shake it off,
I, I, I shake it off, I shake it off
I, I, I shake it off, I shake it off