

Open: Into The Light

Tuesday Evening Worship

7:00 pm - 8:30 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

Jazz being played

Video Announcements / Countdown clock

Imagery on screen, chrysalis/butterfly development, gray layer continuing to tear revealing green cover of the chrysalis - can't quite see what is underneath yet

Introduction

Lights down, leader in a pool of light on stage

Drone from synth underneath leading into Introit, choir is assembled behind the Leader

Craig Bartlett:

“In the opening of the tomb of Lazarus, in the unwrapping of his funeral clothes, the community had to face their unknowing—and perhaps disbelief—and trust that the resurrection Jesus had facilitated was real. The range of emotions was vast. As the butterfly’s cozy environment cracks further open still, it is the participation of the whole community that will make change possible—waking up, rolling away the stone, unwrapping what will be.”

Gathering

Introit: "O Magnum Mysterium," M. Lauridson. SATB
<https://youtu.be/nn5ken3RJB0>

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum.
Alleluia.

English Translation: *[on the centre screen only]*

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord,
lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
Christ the Lord.
Alleluia! (B)

Dance (Kabuki-like) entrance - shaft of light
*(dancers doing slow movements down centre isle , perhaps with muslin pieces of fabric-
shaft of light) (SD)*

ACT ONE

Rev. Shanon Ferguson:

"Are you ready to shed the funeral clothes?
Are you ready to open yourselves to renewed life?
If you are, let us sing and make a joyful noise in the sanctuary!"

Opening Song**

"Sing," M. Munizzi. Congregational
<https://youtu.be/nFrXIZwvDbM>

Verse 1:

Now is the time for all people from every land to come together.
Now is the moment for worship, we enter in withholding nothing.
You're worthy, exalted, You're high and lifted up.

Chorus:

Sing, sing unto the Lord, open up your heart, make a joyful noise in the sanctuary.
Sing, sing unto the Lord, lavishing with love, let the praises ring in the sanctuary,
sing.

Verse 1

Chorus

Chorus

Chorus 2

Gotta open up your mouth and give God praise,
open up your heart and give God praise.
Lift up holy hands unashamed in the sanctuary.

Chorus 3

Gotta open up your mouth and give God praise,
open up your heart and give God praise.
Lift up holy hands unashamed, sing, sing, sing.

Chorus 2

Chorus 3

Chorus 2

Chorus 3 (B)

Statement of Faith**

Led by members of the Statement of Faith Commission

(In the event the SOF is not adopted, we will skip this portion in the program)

Rev. Dr. Axel Schwaigert :

Metropolitan Community Churches is one chapter in the story of the Church, the Body of Christ.

ALL: We are people on a journey, learning to live into our spirituality, while affirming our bodies, our genders, our sexualities.

Rev. Dr. Axel Schwaigert :

We don't all believe exactly the same things,

ALL: And yet in the midst of our diversity, we build community, grounded in God's radically inclusive love for all people.

Bryce Rich :

We are part of an ongoing conversation on matters of belief and faith, shaped by scripture and the historic creeds, building on those who have come before us.

ALL: Our chapter begins when God says to us: “Come, taste, and see.”

Rev. Cathy Alexander:

“Come, taste, and see.” Jesus Christ, You invite all people to Your open table.

ALL: You make us Your people, a beloved community.

Rev. Elder Dr. Candace Shultis:

You restore the joy of our relationship with God, even in the midst of loneliness, despair, and degradation.

ALL: We are each unique and we all belong, a priesthood of all believers.

Rev. Dr. Karl Hand:

Baptized and filled with Your Holy Spirit, You empower us to be Your healing presence in a hurting world.

ALL: We expect to see Your reign on earth as it is in heaven as we work toward a world where everyone has enough, wars cease, and all creation lives in harmony.

Linda Brenner:Linda Brenner-Beckstead:

We affirm Your charge to all of humanity to care for the land, sea, and air.

ALL: Therefore, we will actively resist systems and structures which are destroying Your creation.

Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez :

With all creation we worship You – every tribe, every language, every people, every nation.

ALL: We know You by many names Triune God, beyond comprehension, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, who invites us to the feast. Amen.

Prayer

Rev. Sharon Ferguson:

“Holy and Living God,
we praise you for you are the One who raises us up!
Open us, unwrap us, unwind us, O God,
Draw us into unabashed praise

for the things you are doing
and the things you have already done!
We pray this in your many names,
and the people say,
Amen!"

ACT TWO

Introduction of Preacher

Rev. William Knight:

"Our preacher this evening has "seen it all." From volunteer to senior pastor, from serving this denomination as chair of "this" to chair of "that," he now serves as Director of Church Life and Health which means he's travelled a lot of road and airways to come and be with you, the churches of MCC. As we continue to open to the light, after our readings we will open to the perspective of this faithful servant."

Contemporary Word: Video of Janine Everall reading her poem

not to be displayed on screen but in online PDF (SD)

"Being Lazarus" by Janine Everall

Make available online/app (SD)

Yes, there was the putrid smell
The ooze and seep
Of flesh, dead and dribbling
But worse, an empty ache
Of being forsaken, left

There was nothing in this tomb
But me and I was not enough
I was nothing without the other

I had been left behind
Like the lame child
At the back of the crowd
Disfigured, dismembered, forgotten

I was just a speck of dust
Floating, settling, floating, settling
No breath, no name
An empty jar on a back shelf
A cracked, chipped thing

I must have done something
Very wrong
To be so defiled

I know. It is my pride
My arrogance at being so loved
Is this what has brought me here
To this void?
How ironic
The cost of death is love.
Then what is birth?
Being put together cell by cell.
Is that not love too?

A change in sound
A different light
I see now. I see now!

I am back
I am re-membered
Still dusty, but whole.

My name is called.
I go to the other.

So gently, gently
They unravel me
Cord after cord
Filthy layer after layer
Until I am revealed

I know now I can not hide.
I am transparent.
I am the butterfly in Pandora's box.
I am hope.

Ancient Word

John 11: 1-44

Rev. William Knight:

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany,
the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus

now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Rabbi, the one you love is sick."

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death.

No, it is for God's glory so that God's son may be glorified through it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Jesus, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

"Jesus," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **(B)**

Scripture Response

"Music Of Heaven" JR. Brown Solo/Choir

<https://youtu.be/p5VZ88uFDbk>

I come with my armor in place,
Emotions in check,
And thinking I'm smarter,
Or just more realistic.

I sit with my frozen smile,
All the while
Reluctant to trust what I'm told.

Cynical, cold,

Challenging music of Heaven
To open a crack in my chest
And let something glorious in.

Music of Heaven
Should puncture me, suddenly
Blessed, blessed, blessed –
Let the music begin.
Let the music begin.

They sing and they cry and I watch,
Lean back in my chair,
The passive observer,
Alone and unsure,

Indifference upon my face,
Out of place,
But longing to feel what you feel...
Like it was real;

Like there could be music of Heaven
That opened some path to your soul
And let something glorious in.

Music of Heaven
Allows you to give up control ...
Yes, yes –
Let the music begin.
Let the music begin.

And I sit there with dry eyes
And cold hands
Judging and standing apart.
Dry eyes
And cold hands,
Waiting and wondering
When will it open my heart?
When will it open my heart?
When will I open my heart?

Holy Spirit!! (repeated) (B)

I hear you sing
I hear you sing
And I want to say, "Yes!"
Yes! (B)
Yes! (B)
I hear you singing...
Holy Spirit!
I want to sing Holy Spirit!
I want to sing Holy Spirit!
And I want to say Yes!
Say yes!
Say yes!
I need to sing
Holy Spirit!
I need to cry
I need to believe!
And I can say Yes!
Yes
Yes...
I can say yes, yes, yes
I will say
Yes, yes, yes...
Let the music begin.
Let the music begin.

Prayer for Speaker

[Speaker to come out of the 'people' as the prayer begins] (SD)

Rev. Pressley Sutherland

"Yes, yes, yes..."

O God, the music has begun with the opening of our hearts.

Open now the mouth of our preacher
that he might be an instrument, a vessel,
of your liberating Word.

Open our ears to hear and our lives to claim your promise!

Amen!"

[reprise music as speaker comes forward] (M)

Sermon

Rev. Elder Tony Freeman

[sermon contains song - Jane to cover this] (SD)

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their sorrow light.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?*

*Here we are Lord, Is it us, Lord?
We have heard You calling in the night.
We will go Lord, if You lead us.
We will hold Your people in our hearts.*

Sermon Response

[musical intro vamp for Trading My Sorrows begins under...]

PJ Dwyer:

Will we let our dead bodies come alive? Will we let them be unwrapped? Will we allow this church to open to new possibilities? You have been given a piece of muslin cloth. We invite you to imagine a word or phrase that represents that which you would like to shed in your life, or that you pray will be shed in your church or this denomination. If you have something to write with, feel free to write on that piece of cloth. If not, simply imagine what you would write there. Share with your neighbor, if you feel comfortable,

what it is you will ask God to help you shed this night. We will bring these forward later as we come to communion.

Extended instrumental of next song as people write/talk (M)

Congregational Response

"Trading My Sorrows"

<http://youtu.be/-xXiSvddlfA>

Verse 1:

I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame
I'm laying it down for the joy of the Lord

Verse 2:

I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain
I'm laying it down for the joy of the Lord

Chorus:

We say, "Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord.
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord, Amen!"

Verse 3:

I'm pressed but not crushed, persecuted not abandoned,
Struck down but not destroyed.
I am blessed beyond the curse, for God's promise will endure
That God's joy's gonna be my strength.

Bridge:

Though the sorrow may last for the night, God's joy comes in the morning.

Verse 1

Verse 2

Ending:

La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

ACT THREE

Offering

Clergy Well Being

Rev Kurt Krieger & Rev. Terri Miller :

[get the person introducing to script it under a word limit/theme and submit
Have asked him to edit it down]

Offertory Song

"Coming Out of the Dark"

G. Estefan music @MCCT

<https://youtu.be/s4GA2B1jpRk>

Why be afraid if I'm not alone
Though life is never easy the rest is unknown
Up to now for me it's been hands against stone
Spent each and every moment
Searching for what to believe
Coming out of the dark, I finally see the light now
It's shining on me
Coming out of the dark I know the love that saved me
You're sharing with me
Starting again is part of the plan
And I'll be so much stronger holding your hand
Step by step I'll make it through I know I can
It may not make it easier but I have felt you
Near all the way

Coming out of the dark, i finally see the light now
And it's shining on me (I see the light, I see the light)
See the light
Coming out of the dark I know the love that saved me
You're sharing with me
Forever, forever...

Why be afraid?

Communion

[non-English, English on screens] (LS)

- 1 - Rev Shirley Strader (English),
- 2 - Eliud Dumas (Spanish),
- 3 - Rev. Dr. Axel Schwaigert (German),
- 4- Jonelle Neighbor (does ASL),
- 5 - Rev. Igor Simões (Spanish or Portuguese?)
- 6 - Rev. Victor Bracuto (Spanish)

Rev Shirley Strader- "Coming out of the dark. I finally see the light now.

Eliud Dumas - After Jesus was resurrected, he appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. It was only in the moment that he broke bread with them that they "saw the light" - they recognized him as their Teacher and Savior. As we come to the table this night, we are invited to open to the light that is shining already on us.

Rev. Dr. Axel Schwaigert - Coming out of the dark we know that Love has saved us.

Jonelle Neighbor - We are sharing with Jesus, with each other...
Forever... forever... *[all repeat]*

One lifts bread:

Rev. Igor Simões - This is the bread that reminds us that we are never alone.
This is the bread that opens us to the light of God's resurrecting love.
This is the bread that is broken in blessing for each one of us.

One lifts cup:

Rev. Victor Bracuto - This is the cup that reminds us that we are never alone.
This is the cup that opens us to the light of God's resurrecting love.
This is the cup that is poured out in blessing for each one of us.

Rev Shirley Strader - Holy Spirit, pour out upon your people the light and love of life in you.

Nourish us, feed us, open us
and call us to be one body together
for the sake of all who suffer the tombs of this world.

Amen."

[in English] "As you come for communion tonight, bring your slip of funeral cloth and drop it somewhere... leave it anywhere on the floor... leave death on your journey to receive these life-giving elements. When you go back to your seats you will receive a colored piece of cloth representing new life, hope and possibility. May it ever remind you that you left death behind, opting for the light!"

Communion Servers say to people:

"Creator God help this one, your child, to come into your marvelous light where there is peace and protection. May they prosper as the journey continues. In your many names I pray, Amen."

Communion Songs

1. Breathe

English Verse:

This is the air I breathe. This is the air I breathe.
Your holy presence living in me.
This is my daily bread. This is my daily bread.
Your holy Word spoken to me.

English Chorus:

And I, I'm desp'rate for You. And I, I'm lost without You

Spanish Verse:

Tú eres mi respirar. Tú eres mi respirar.
Dios tu presencia Vive en mi.
Eres mi pan señor. Eres mi pan señor,
Dios tus palabras Son para mi.

Spanish Chorus:

Y yo, Te anhele, señor.
Y yo, Soy perdido sin ti.

English Chorus

Ending:

I'm desp'rate for You. I'm lost without You.

2. You Hold Me Now

Verse 1:

On that day when I see all that you have for me,
when I see you face to face, there surrounded by Your grace.
All my fears swept away, in the light of your embrace.
Where your love is all I need, and forever I am free.

Chorus 1:

Where the streets are made of gold, in your presence healed and whole.
Let the songs of heaven rise to you alone.

Chorus 2:

No weeping, no hurt or pain. No suffering, you hold me now, you hold me now.
No darkness, no sick or lame, no hiding, you hold me now, you hold me now.

Verse 2:

In this life, I will stand, through my joy and my pain.
Knowing there's a greater day, there's a hope that never fails.
Where your name is lifted high and forever praises rise.

For the glory of your name, I'm believing for the day.

Chorus 3:

Where the wars and violence cease, all creation lives in peace.
Let the songs of heaven rise to you alone.

Chorus 2

Instrumental section --

Bridge:

For eternity all my heart will give all the glory to you name.
For eternity all my heart will give all the glory to you name.

Bridge

Chorus 2

Chorus 2

3. Hands to the Heavens

Verse 1:

We are your church, we are your sons and daughters.
We've gathered here to meet with you.

Verse 2:

We lift our eyes, we lay our hearts before you,
expectant here for you to move.

Chorus:

With our hands to the heavens, alive in your presence oh God, when you come.
So pour out Your Spirit, we love to be near you oh God, when you come.

Verse 3:

You are the way, the truth and life we live for.
Oh, how we long to know you more.

Chorus

Chorus

Bridge:

Come like a rushing wind. Come light the fire again.
Come like a burning flame, have Your way, have Your way.

Bridge

Bridge

Chorus

Chorus

Bridge
Bridge

Instrumental section

Bridge
Bridge

4. My Life is in Your Hands

Verse 1:

You don't have to worry, and don't you be afraid,
Joy comes in the morning, troubles, don't last always.
For there's a friend named Jesus, who will wipe your tears away,
and if your heart is broken just lift your hands and say:

Chorus1:

Oh, I know that I can make it, I know that I can stand.
No matter what may come my way, my life is in Your hands.

Verse 1
Chorus 1

Bridge:

With Jesus I can take it, with Him I know I can stand.
No matter what may come my way, my life is in Your hands.

Verse 3:

So when your tests and trials, they seem to get you down,
and all your friends and loved ones are nowhere to be found,
remember there's a friend named Jesus who will wipe your tears away,
and if your heart is broken just lift your hands and say:

Chorus 1
Bridge
Chorus 1
Bridge
Chorus 1
Bridge

Ending:

My life is in Your hands.
My life is in Your hands.

5. We Fall Down

Verse 1:

We fall down and lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus;
The greatness of mercy and love at the feet of Jesus.

Chorus:

And we cry holy, holy, holy.

And we cry holy, holy, holy.

And we cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.

Verse 1

Chorus

Chorus

Instrumental verse and chorus

Verse 1

Chorus

Chorus

Ending:

And we cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.

6. I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

Verse 1:

I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus;

No turning back, no turning back.

Verse 2:

The world behind me, the cross before me;

The world behind me, the cross before me;

The world behind me, the cross before me;

No turning back, no turning back.

Verse 1

7. High and Exalted

Chorus:

You are high and exalted and worthy of praise.

With our hearts we will love and adore.

You are high and exalted and worthy of praise.

Holy is our God.

Chorus

Verse:

Holy, Holy, Holy is our God.
Holy, Holy, Holy is our God.

Chorus
Chorus

Ending:
Holy is our God. Holy is our God.

8. We Bow Down

Chorus:

We bow down and confess You are Lord in this place.
We bow down and confess You are Lord in this place.

Chorus 2:

You are all I need. It's Your face I seek.
In the presence of Your light, we bow down, we bow down.

Chorus
Chorus 2
Chorus

9. Everlasting God

Verse 1:

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord.
Wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord.
Wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.

Bridge:

Our God, You reign forever;
our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

Chorus:

You are the everlasting God; the everlasting God.
You do not faint, You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak. You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Verse 1
Bridge
Chorus

Instrumental section

Ending:

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.
The everlasting God. The everlasting .

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.
The everlasting God. the everlasting...

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.
The everlasting God. The everlasting God.

10. It Is Well

Verse 1:

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul!

Chorus:

It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul).
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Verse 2:

My sin O the joy of this glorious thought -
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Chorus (B)

Announcements :

Kevin Coutu and Emily Worman

Benediction

Rev. Elder Tony Freeman:

“May the Spirit of the Living God,

Made known to us most fully in the victory of life over death:

Go before you to show you the way;

Go above you to watch over you;

Go behind you to push you into places you may not necessarily go yourself;

Go beneath you to uphold and uplift you;
Go beside you to be your strong and constant companion;
And dwell within you to remind you that you are surely not alone,
And that you are loved—loved beyond your wildest imagination.
And may the fire of God's blessing burn brightly upon you, and within you,
Now and always.
Amen.

Closing Song**

"We Are the Church Alive"

Verse 1:

We are the church alive, Christ's presence on this earth:
We give God's Spirit body in the act of our new birth.
As yielded open channels for God's descending dove,
We shout and sing, With joy we bring God's all-inclusive love.

Verse 2:

We are the church alive, our faith has set us free;
No more enslaved by guilt and shame, we live our liberty!
We follow Christ's example and freedom now proclaim,
Destroying myths of doubt and fear in Jesus' mighty name.

Verse 3:

We are the church alive, the body must be healed;
Where strife has bruised and battered us, God's wholeness is revealed.
Our mission is an urgent one; in strength and health let's stand,
So that our witness to God's light will shine through every land.

Verse 4:

We are the church alive, all praise to God on high!
Creator, Savior, Comforter! We laud and magnify Your name,
almighty God of love; Pray, give us life,
that we may be your church, the church alive, for all eternity. **(B)**