



# Open: Into The Light

Tuesday Evening Worship  
2016 General Conference of the Metropolitan  
Community Churches

## SETTING THE SCENE

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

## ACT ONE

### Opening Song

"Sing"

### Statement of Faith

**One:** 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.

We don't all believe exactly the same things,  
And yet in the midst of our diversity, we build community,  
grounded in God's radically inclusive love for all people.

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.

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

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

**You make us Your people, a beloved community.**

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

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

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

**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.**

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

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

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

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

**Prayer**

## **ACT TWO**

**Introduction of Preacher**

**Contemporary Word**

**“Being Lazarus”**

**Ancient Word**

John 11: 1-44

**Scripture Response**

“Music Of Heaven”

**Prayer for Preacher**

**Sermon**

Rev. Elder Tony Freeman

**Congregational Response**

“Trading My Sorrows”

**ACT THREE**

**Offering**

for Clergy Well Being

**Offertory Song**

“Coming Out of the Dark”

**Communion**

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

Rev. Elder Tony Freeman:

**Closing Song**

“We Are the Church Alive”

*Sign up to receive copies of the  
full scripts at the  
Worship Design Studio  
display table at this event.*