

Unfold: Claiming New Possibilities

Wednesday Morning Worship:
8.30am-9.30am

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)

Sounds/Music as people enter the space, imagery on screen (LS)

Chrysalis/butterfly development (D)

(chrysalis/butterfly development, the butterfly is sitting on the broken chrysalis, wings have not unfolded yet)

Gathering

[video of time-lapse of dawn from the location of the emerging church speaker.

Here's one of Auckland (would slow it down to play silently through the whole of the introit)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7HWlvIweYE>]

Introit - instrumental Mashup of Magic to Do

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkWHafa-R6E>

"Magic to Do"

Join us... Leave your fields to flower

Join us... Leave your cheese to soul

Join us... Come and waste an hour or two

Doo-dle-ee-do

Journey... Journey to a spot exciting, mystic and exotic

Journey... Through our anecdotic revue

We've got magic to do... Just for you

We've got miracle plays to play

We've got parts to perform.... Hearts to warm

Kings and things to take by storm

As we go along our way

Intrigue.... Plots to bring disaster

Humor.... Handled by a master

Romance.... Love presented pastorally

Dee-dle-ee-dee
Illusion.... Fantasy to study
Battles.... Barbarous and bloody
Join us..... Sit where everybody can see

We've got magic to do... Just for you
We've got miracle plays to play
We've got parts to perform.... Hearts to warm
Kings and things to take by storm
As we go along our way
Instrumental Underscore:

Rev. Cristiano Valero:
[spoken in English]

“Welcome to worship everyone - ha ha ha –
are you ready to have a good time this morning?”

[Then spoken in Brazilian Portuguese, English on screens]

Estamos fora do casulo, mas a nossa viagem continua.
Ansiamos por esticar as asas, mas não estamos prontos.
Estamos presos no limbo. Uma casa no meio do caminho.

Somos como Zacarias? Ele não podia acreditar que sua vida seria mudada para sempre. O desafio de fazer algo novo foi tão grande que ele perdeu a capacidade de falar durante meses.

Será que também nós, perdemos a nossa voz?

Ou vamos deixar que Deus nos dê um novo nome e um novo propósito?

Estamos nesse momento pouco antes do amanhecer ... o que será que o novo dia irá trazer?

We are out of the cocoon but our journey continues.

We long to stretch our wings but they don't feel ready.

We are caught in limbo. A half-way house.

Are we like Zechariah? He couldn't believe his life would be changed forever.

The challenge to do something new was so great that he lost his ability to speak for months.

Will we too, lose our voice?

Or will we let God give us a new name and new purpose?

We are in that moment just before dawn ... what will the new day bring?

Music Returns

We got
Magic to do
Just for you, We got
Magic to do
Just for you, We got
Magic to do
Just for you
As we go along

Our way
Magic to do
Magic to do
Magic to play
We got
Fables and fables to
Portray

As we go along
Our way

ACT ONE

Call to Worship**

*Leader in Brazilian Portuguese with both Brazilian Portuguese
and English on screens:*

Rev. Cristiano Valero:

Vamos ajudar uns aos outros a contar nossa história

**Vamos caminhar juntos para lugares
desconhecidos**

Nós temos o culto a fazer

Nós temos corações para aquecer

Nós temos o poder do Deus

Para nos ajudar a caminhar, dia após dia ...

Let's help one another tell our stories

Let's journey together to places unknown

We've got worship to do

We've got hearts to warm

We have the power of the God

To help us go along our way, day by day... (B)

Opening Song

"Day By Day," Godspell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqEHq1RbME>

Solo

Day by day, oh, dear Lord, three things I pray

To see thee more clearly

Love thee more dearly

Follow thee more nearly, day by day

Day by day, day by day

Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray

To see thee more clearly

Love thee more dearly

Follow thee more nearly, day by day **(B)**

Introduction of Preacher

Rev. Keith Mozingo:

“What do you get when you cross the US South with an out and out-spoken advocate for LGBTQ rights? You get our preacher for this morning. Brandiilayne Mangum-Dear is the pastor of one of our emerging churches, Joshua Generation MCC Church in Hattiesburg, MS and the founder of The Dandelion Project. She was featured in Showtime's award-winning documentary "L-Word MS: Hate the Sin." Brandiilayne has fought alongside organizations such as Get EQUAL, HRC and GLAAD, for LGBTQ rights in Mississippi, USA.

After our readings, we welcome her to offer us an inspiring word, pushing us to unfold and claim new possibilities!”

ACT TWO

“Where Do I Go”

<https://youtu.be/rzaQu2ULRc0>

Where do I go? Follow the river
Where do I go? Follow the gulls
Where is the something? Where is the someone
That tells me why I live and die?

Where do I go? Follow the children
Where do I go? Follow their smiles
Is there an answer in their sweet faces
That tells me why I live and die?

Follow the wind song, follow the thunder
Follow the neon in young lovers' eyes
Down to the gutter, up to the glitter
Into the city where the truth lies

Where do I go? Follow my heartbeat
Where do I go? Follow my hand
Where do they lead me?
And will I ever discover why I live and die?

Follow the wind song, follow the thunder
Follow the neon in young lovers' eyes
Down to the gutter, up to the glitter
Into the city where the truth lies

Where do I go? Follow my heartbeat
Where do I go? Follow my hand
Where do they lead me?
And will I ever discover why I live and die?

I live and die
Why do I live, why do I die?
Where do I go?
Tell my why, tell me where?
Tell my why, tell me where?
Tell me why?

First Reading

The Song of Zechariah (adapted from The Message Luke 1:67-79)
[with sunrise video]

Andrew Ramage: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
God came and set the people free.
Setting the power of salvation in the center of our lives,
and in the very house of David the servant,
Just as God promised long ago
through the preaching of the holy prophets:
Deliverance from our enemies
and every hateful hand;
So we can worship God without a care in the world.
And you, my child, "Prophet of the Highest,"
will go ahead of the Master to prepare the ways,
Present the offer of salvation to all people,
the healing of all brokenness.
Through the heartfelt mercies of our God,
God's Sunrise will break in upon us,
Shining on those in the darkness,
those sitting in the shadow of death,
Then showing us the way, one foot at a time,
down the path of peace.

[reprise of "Day by Day" - instrumental]

Second Reading

A Childless Couple Conceives
Luke 1:5-25, The Message (MSG)

Victoria Burson:

During the rule of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest assigned service in the regiment of Abijah. His name was Zachariah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. Together they lived honorably before God, careful in keeping to the ways of the commandments and enjoying a clear conscience before God. But they were childless because Elizabeth could never conceive, and now they were quite old.

It so happened that as Zachariah was carrying out his priestly duties before God, working the shift assigned to his regiment, it came his one turn in life to enter the sanctuary of God and burn incense. The congregation was gathered and praying outside the Temple at the hour of the incense offering. Unannounced, an angel of God appeared just to the right of the altar of incense. Zachariah was paralyzed in fear.

But the angel reassured him, "Don't fear, Zachariah. Your prayer has been heard. Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a son by you. You are to name him John. You're going to leap like a gazelle for joy, and not only you—many will delight in his birth. He'll achieve great stature with God.

"He'll drink neither wine nor beer. He'll be filled with the Holy Spirit from the moment he leaves his mother's womb. He will turn many sons and daughters of Israel back to their God. He will herald

God's arrival in the style and strength of Elijah, soften the hearts of parents to children, and kindle devout understanding among hardened skeptics—he'll get the people ready for God."

Zachariah said to the angel, "Do you expect me to believe this? I'm an old man and my wife is an old woman."

But the angel said, "I am Gabriel, the sentinel of God, sent especially to bring you this glad news. But because you won't believe me, you'll be unable to say a word until the day of your son's birth. Every word I've spoken to you will come true on time—God's time."

Meanwhile, the congregation waiting for Zachariah was getting restless, wondering what was keeping him so long in the sanctuary. When he came out and couldn't speak, they knew he had seen a vision. He continued speechless and had to use sign language with the people.

When the course of his priestly assignment was completed, he went back home. It wasn't long before his wife, Elizabeth, conceived. She went off by herself for five months, relishing her pregnancy. "So, this is how God acts to remedy my unfortunate condition!" she said.

[Rev. Keith prays for Brandiilyne while they are on the floor among the people] (SD)

Prayer for the Speaker

Rev. Keith Mozingo:

"Holy Living God,
Unfold this preacher to the Spirit living in her,
moving through her in this time.
And then unfold us
in your time,
to your possibilities.
Surprise us and plant a seed in the womb of your church.
In your many names we pray, Amen."

Musical reprise of "Magic to Do" as Brandiilyne comes to the platform

Sermon

Rev. Brandiilyne Dear

*[applause, traveling music as needed for transition
Begin "Morning Glow" intro]*

ACT THREE

Offering

Emerging Church Programme
Mario Bonfanti

Mario will speak in Italian and the English will be on the screens.

When the Spirit came upon the disciples, closeted because of fear, She pushed them out. The Spirit came out of God, so the disciples could come out of their closet. They both needed to come out to live.

When I was in Catholic Church I was like Lazarus: there was a deep life inside me, but it had to stay banded and hidden in the tomb. I knew I was gay, but I couldn't say aloud. As soon as I told to anybody next to me, they immediately said – like Martha and Maria: "Oh God! He's sick". But I felt to be fully healthy!

One day Jesus came towards my grave, thanks to Paolo, my first boyfriend, and shouted loud: "Come out! Move on and let's have sex!" And sex really saved me, giving a new and eternal life from my tomb. It was the beginning of a long, long process of coming out that lasted about 15 years... till I was born again like a chrysalis: I left the bandages of Catholic Church to be fully myself and live as both a spiritual and bodily person at the same time.

And so "the chief priests decided to kill Lazarus, too": I was excommunicated. And right there, on the roadside of that deadlock, MCC bent over to welcome me and heal my wounds. And now here I am, dressed with glorious garments of honor and pride.

On one hand I'm very grateful to MCC for that, and on the other I'm a bit sad and worried for other Catholic priests in Italy would like to come out but they cannot. We really need many MCC congregations all around Italy to grant safe sacred spaces and let everybody come out and be themselves, blessed by God.

"The Circle" MCC congregation also has a coming out story.

At the beginning we were like Peter, John and James with Jesus on Tabor mountain: we felt so good staying together and there was so much intimacy among us that the Circle needed and wanted to remain closed: the closet that could actually be a safe space. But a Voice came us to say: "Come out!". And the Spirit blew so hard to push the boundaries of the Circle: people came in and out, breaking our "status quo" so that we had to come out from certainty and security and take sides in public squares: we attended a sit-in for equal rights, a flash mob for immigrants and Pride Parade for the first time. It was like our baptism: a great experience of love, spirit and impulse to act for everybody Rights.

We received the prophetic Call.

But, like Moses and the people freed from Egyptian slavery, we have immediately been thrown into the desert: during Pride Parade we had handed out thousands of postcards with our information... but no one contacted us; only desert and silence around us. But there was "like a fire, burning in our heart, imprisoned in our bones; we grow weary holding it in, but we cannot endure it." And so we went on meeting, even if only a few showed up. Our call is stronger than any disappointment because we know that time is coming. "This is the time of fulfillment. The kin-dom of God is at hand." – said Jesus. The sacred fire of love is impelling us to come out and transform Italian society.

And so we worked to collect signatures for a draft law about advance directives for treatment. We declared our opposition to the deletion of the step-child adoption in civil union law. We hosted a Nigerian immigrant and we are supporting him through bureaucratic hearings. We attended events on feminist issues. We were in the IDAHO Catholic prayer event in Milan. We also went to speak about MCC in an atheist Association. And we are networking with LGBT groups in the north of Italy. One of these may allow us to meet for free in their location in Milan after the summer. This is a great opportunity for us.

We need also your help. We need your support.

We need to have the opportunity – such as I had thanks to the Be a Gem scholarship – to attend MCC gatherings, and to gain skills and tools for improving our emerging churches, and to meet other MCC congregations and people all around the world and be strengthened in our ministry. We also need material resources to go on and develop new congregations in all the places where we are serving.

So I invite you to give what you can to support new MCC ministries.

It's about MCC future. It's about you all.

What you are giving, even if little, is “like a mustard seed: it is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants.” Likewise your donation: it will grow up and give safe sacred shelter for many people all around the World. They need it. They need you.

Thank you very much you all and each of you.

God bless your generosity.

Offertory Song

“Morning Glow” -

<https://youtu.be/RLqpzzw9Fr8>

Morning glow, morning glow
Starts to glimmer when you know
Winds of change are set to blow
And sweep this whole land through
Morning glow is long past due

Morning glow fill the earth
Come and shine for all you're worth
We'll be present at the birth
Of old faith looking new
Morning glow is long past due

[ALL]

Oh, morning glow, I'd like to help you grow

[PIPPIN]

We should have started long ago

[ALL]

So, morning glow all day long
While we sing tomorrow's song
Never knew we could be so strong
But now it's very clear

[PIPPIN]

Morning glow is almost here
Morning glow by your light
We can make the new day bright
And the phantoms of the night
Will fade into the past
Morning glow is here

[ALL]
At last!

Announcements

Jane Syftestad

Closing Song**

"Brand New Day," *The Wiz*-
<https://youtu.be/zy8dUJEOqos>

Everybody look around
'Cause there's a reason to rejoice you see
Everybody come out
And let's commence to singing joyfully
Everybody look up
And feel the hope that we've been waiting for
Everybody's glad
Because our silent fear and dread is gone

Freedom, you see, has got our hearts singing so joyfully
Just look about
You owe it to yourself to check it out

Can't you feel a brand new day?
Can't you feel a brand new day?
Can't you feel a brand new day?
Can't you feel a brand new day? **(B)**

Everybody be glad
Because the sun is shining just for us
Everybody wake up
Into the morning into happiness
Hello world
It's like a different way of living now
And thank you world
We always knew that we'd be free somehow

In harmony
And show the world that we've got liberty
It's such a change
For us to live so independently
Freedom, you see, has got our hearts singing so joyfully
Just look about
You owe it to yourself to check it out

Can't you feel a brand new day?
Can't you feel a brand new day?
Can't you feel a brand new day?
Can't you feel a brand new day?

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Can't you feel a brand new day?
Can't you feel a brand new day?

Benediction
Rev. Brandiilyne Dear