

BELIEVE: NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT 2016

“BELIEVE is a call to action, a catalyst, and a responsibility. We’re inviting you to believe that God calls you to be leaders of faith and leaders of change – not tomorrow, not someday, not eventually, but today!”

LITURGIES

Unless otherwise noted, liturgies crafted by the NYE 2016 Worship Team:

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Tuesday, July 26, Opening Worship: BELIEVE IN THE EARTH

A READING ON HEBREWS 11 AND MATTHEW 13

All: We believe...

One: ...that God’s realm is like a mustard seed that a farmer planted in a field.

All: We believe...

One: ...that the mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds, easily choked out by surrounding crops and weeds.

All: We believe...

One: ...that a mustard seed, or a dream, or faith, can get lost among the brambles of problems that seem too large for something so small: brambles of violence and division, war and greed, indifference and arrogance.

All: We believe...

One: ...that it’s hard to believe in mustard seeds. Sometimes, after the seed is planted, we forget that it’s there. Sometimes we simply don’t believe...

All: A mustard seed can make a difference.

One: What can a mustard seed do if it begins to make its way toward the sun, only to encounter pollution or concrete or contaminated water or a war zone?

All: A mustard seed can make a difference.

One: It is the smallest of seeds.

All: A mustard seed can make a difference.

K: Because when it is fully grown, a mustard seed becomes a large and sturdy shrub, giving shade and shelter, cleaning water and air, providing beauty amid disaster.

All: A mustard seed can make a difference, we believe.

One: We believe.

All: We believe it. We are called to it. And we are confident in it, not because we can understand everything but because god can do all things.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray. For the beauty of the earth, we give you thanks, Creator God.

All: For the many ways we spoil and waste earth's beauty, we ask your forgiveness, Creator God.

One: For the joy of each morning and the mystery of each night, we give you thanks, Most Creative God.

All: For our grumbling about time, for our lack of gratitude for each day, we ask your forgiveness, Most Creative God.

One: For the work you call us to do to prevent further damage to the world, and for the imagination you give us to have faith in a healthy and sustaining world, we give you thanks, O God of Creation.

All: Toward a world that sustains all people and creatures, we believe we can make a difference with your help, O God of Creation. Amen.

SOCIAL MEDIA QUESTION

“What Do You Believe?”

Wednesday, July 27, Morning Worship: BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER

INVOCATION

One: Friends, let us love one another...

All: ...because love comes from God.

One: When we love...

All: ...we know God.

One: When we know God,

All: ...we love.

One: Let us pray. Eternal God, you are the friend of all.

All: You seek us when we turn away. You welcome us when we draw near.

One: You call us together when we turn away from one another.

All: You move among us whenever two or three are gathered in your name.

One: Grant us the grace to love and serve you.

All: Grant us the grace to love and serve one another. Amen.

LITURGY AND PRAYER ON 1 CORINTHIANS 12

One: 1 Corinthians 12 reminds us that the body, with its many parts, is still one body.

All: The world, with its many people and places, is still one world.

One: Each part of the body is needed. Each part of the world is loved.

All: The body cannot say to one of its parts, "I have no need of you."

One: The world cannot say to some of its people, "I have no love for you."

All: If the body rejects one part, it injures itself.

One: When we refuse to love others, when we hide behind our biases, we hurt ourselves.

All: We are all members of the body of Christ. The body that holds us together is Christ. The body that is injured when we fail to love is Christ's body.

One: The body of Christ looks like you and me and all of us. The body of Christ looks like us taking care of each other and learning from one another as a community.

All: If one of us tried to be the whole body, how would we learn and grow? If one of us tried to be an entire community on our own, who would we love?

One: You are the body of Christ and individually members of it. If someone suffers, sit with them. If one member protests, stand with them. If one member rejoices, dance with them.

All: Believe in each other. Be the body of Christ together.

Prayer: Living Spirit, you call us into community to show love to one another and to the world. When we are impatient and want to follow you by ourselves without anyone else, forgive us. When we are hypocritical and pretend that we can love only some people but ignore others, forgive us. Thank you for the people you put in our lives to love us. May we do the same for one another. Amen.

SOCIAL MEDIA QUESTION

“What does community mean to you?”

Wednesday, July 27, Afternoon Worship: BELIEVE IN THE UNCONVENTIONAL

INVOCATION ON HABAKKUK 2

One: "I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart. There I will keep watch to see what God will say to me and how the LORD will respond. Then God answered me and said, 'Write the vision. Write it so clearly that it can be read at a glance. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it if seems to drag its feet, wait for it.'"

One: You have heard it said that life is a rat race,

All: But God's vision imagines a world where persons are valued, where rest is easy.

One: You have heard it said that pain is gain,

All: But God's vision imagines a world where pain is a bygone mystery and life is a creative adventure.

One: You have heard it said go big or go home,

All: But God's vision imagines the smallest and the least being the first and the greatest.

One: God is in the business of writing a vision that looks wildly different from all we have seen and heard.

All: We are watching for it. We are listening for it. We are living it out, because we believe!

One: We are part of God's vision for this world. You are part of God's vision, in all of your uniqueness.

All: I am part of God's vision! Come, Holy Spirit.

One: Believe it and share how God works through your uniqueness!

SOCIAL WALL QUESTIONS

"How does God work through your uniqueness?"

"What can you imagine?"

Thursday, July 28, Morning Worship: BELIEVE IN THE PROPHETIC

A LAMENT ON PSALM 137 (by Desiree McCray, Covenant United Church of Christ)

One: How can we sing? Many of us are faced with pressure to succeed and achieve at school and in extracurricular activities. We get caught up in the stress of our days and we hope that fear of failure and lack of accomplishment is just a phase.

All: Because You created us and the opinion You hold of us is the only one that matters, God give us visions so that others' opinions cannot too easily form or flatter. We believe in who You called just to be.

One: How can we sing? Some of us live in communities where the biggest industries are liquor stores and "payday loans." Some of us come from broken homes, our spirits marked by scars from words intentionally meant to hurt us. Some of us have been made to feel like the person we see in the mirror isn't good enough.

All: God, help us to realize that how people treat us says more about them than it says about us. May we be comforted in the knowledge that you call us fearfully and wonderfully made. We believe in what makes us different.

One: How can we sing? To adults our eyes are glued to our phones, but we can't seem to look away from our communities laid bare. But lately, we feel a stirring, in our spirits that proclaims God's presence.

All: God, we know that You are in the struggle with us. We know that Christ struggles and cries out, and we know that salvation will sustain us in our work toward justice for God's people. We believe in justice.

One: God, we believe that if we, who are called by Your name, put away our pride and seek Your face, if we turn from our harmful ways, then God comes close. Jesus, you said you will forgive each of us and heal our land. We believe in prayer.

All: How can we sing, O God? How can we answer God's call to justice and peace when the task seems so daunting?

All: We sing because You created us. We sing because Your kingdom is sufficient. We sing because You are with us. We sing as we stand together.

PRAYER IN THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE

One: Same as it ever was, O God, it's the same as it ever was. It's been this way for so long, God. People fighting. People taking advantage. People struggling. People dying.

All: Sweet Spirit, we are discouraged.

One: Same as it ever was, O God: Peace that eludes us. Power that entices us.

All: O Christ, how long will we live this way?

One: Same as it ever was, O God, not only in struggle but also in resistance.

All: The Bible tells us so.

One: Same as it ever was, like in the days when Shiphrah and Puah refused to deal death in accordance with Pharaoh's law, but instead supported the lives of their community.

All: We must remember.

One: Same as it ever was, like in the days when a few friends dug their way through a roof to make sure their friend reached Jesus.

All: Same as it ever was, Merciful God.

One: In life and death, in struggle and protest, we belong to you Our God.

Through all that changes, stay with us. Through all that threatens and all that enlivens, guide us.

All: Same as ever, until we are changed. Amen.

LITANY FOR JUSTICE

One: How can we believe? How are the actions of our belief demonstrated?

All: I believe in justice.

One: What does our belief in justice look like?

All: I believe in love.

One: What does our belief in love look like?

All: I believe in peace.

One: How does our belief in peace change the world?

All: With feet on the ground and hearts in our hands. With truth-telling and grace-sharing. Dear God, let it be.

SOCIAL MEDIA QUESTION

“How do we believe?”

Thursday, July 28, Afternoon Worship: BELIEVE IN JUSTICE

PRAYER AND CONFESSION ON PSALM 43

One: Is your spirit disquieted?

All: Hope in God.

One: Are you feeling left out?

All: Hide away in God.

One: Are you longing for a sign?

All: Wait for God.

One: Wait for God... Wait... Wait ... [silence] In the silence of your restless heart, ask yourself: what do you want? What are you in the mood for? What would you right this minute? ... If we got everything we said we wanted, would we be satisfied? Take another minute to ask yourself: what do you want, really?

One: Our hearts are restless, God.

All: We want a quick fix. We want to avoid uncertainty.

One: Our minds are racing, O God.

All: Why don't you make everything better, take care of the problems?

One: Clear our heads and our hearts, we pray.

All: Lead us to your dwelling place, where our restlessness and our selfishness will fade before your glory.

One: Then we will praise your name and sing for your joy.

All: Then we will seek your wisdom with delight, asking not what we want for ourselves but what you want for all creation. Amen.

ASSURANCE

One: Through all of our desires, no matter if our hearts feel restless or content, when life is tiring and when life is thrilling – always God is God. It is God whom made us, named us, claimed us. We are God's people in God's world, across generations and geographies. This is good news!

BELIEVE LITURGY

One: Believe.

All: We believe!

One: Believe in God's dreams coming true.

All: We are the ones God has sent. We are the ones we're looking for.

One: When God calls saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?"

All: The answer for us is the same answer that Isaiah once said: "Here I am, send me!"

One: When the world turns on its head, when there is bias and bigotry, when violence and war cause people to live in fear, when our own streets aren't safe and our cities are food deserts, when mountains are soiled and eroded, and we lose sleep because we don't know what to do...

All: The answer for us is the same answer that Mordecai gave to Esther: "Who knows, perhaps you have come for such a time as this."

One: There is no need to look over our shoulders for someone else to change the world. There's no need to wait for someone else to make a difference.

All: We are the ones we're waiting for.

One: You are the ones you're waiting for! God calls you and uniquely equips you to be an agent of change and leadership. Believe!

SOCIAL WALL QUESTION

What do you want, really?

Saturday, July 30, Morning Worship: BELIEVE IN YOU(TH)

CALL TO WORSHIP ON PSALM 100

One: This is the day that the LORD has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: This is a week that God has given.

All: Let us rejoice and be thankful for it.

One: This is the people God is calling.

All: Let us be bold and live gladly into it.

One: This is the belief that God is instilling.

All: Let us be confident and welcome the mystery of it.

SCRIPTURE AND DEDICATION ON LUKE 2

One: “When Jesus was twelve, he went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover, just as he did every year with his parents. This time, when the festival was over and his parents began the journey home, Jesus stayed behind in the temple. When his parents realized he was not with them, they searched everywhere. It took them three days to find him, and for those three days, he had been in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, asking them questions, and offering many of his own answers. The people who heard him were astounded by his wisdom.”

One: Some said he was too young.

All: Wisdom is not only measured in years.

One: Some said he was too arrogant.

All: Confidence is not only the result of extensive study.

One: Some said he was disobedient.

All: Compliance is not the only sign of respect and love.

One: So then what do you say about Jesus?

All: We say that we are like Jesus: curious in learning, bold in confidence, unafraid to test limits, committed to awareness and action in the world. Like Jesus, we believe that God is doing something new – and we believe that we are a part of it.

One: Yes, believe it!

SOCIAL WALL QUESTION

What is your boldness?

COMMUNION LITURGY

One: This table is the table of life. This feast is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and elders, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather around Christ's table. This table is for all people, without restriction. Come if you are hungry and thirsty, come if you are filled to overflowing. Come if you feel bold, come if you still have questions. Come for fellowship and nourishment fullness of life, by God's grace.

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Eternal God and Steadfast Sustainer, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love through all circumstances and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for miracles and everyday moments, for the richness of this togetherness, and for the faithfulness of your care.

We thank you for people of faith in every generation who have believed and proclaimed your name; for prophets and saints who preach your word of love and justice; for the whole company of heaven who testify to your abundance; and especially for Jesus who lived among us, manifesting your glory. His death is our death, his life is our newness of life.

We lift our hearts to you in praise and thanksgiving, for you alone are God and we are blessed to sing your name. With the whole host of faithful voices in heaven and on earth, we glorify you, O God Most Holy, with the words of that ancient hymn.

**All: Holy, holy, holy
God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Together we remember. We remember that Jesus provoked his followers to look at life in new ways; that at a table, he showed them bread, blessed & broken, and invited them to perceive it in a new way: “This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

We remember that Jesus showed them the cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. As often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, until he comes again.

Let us continue in prayer. Gracious God, bless this bread and cup and each of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the living body of Christ in service to your world. We pray these things in Jesus’ name, and we pray together using the phrasing of our own choice for the Lord’s Prayer...

One: Come and look. Taste and see. In the bread and in the cup are Christ. In this meal and in this fellowship are life. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Post-Communion Prayer: Gracious God, you have called us here – to this table and to NYE – you have fed us and blessed us and reconnected us. We give you thanks and praise. As we leave this table and this gathering, strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace. Amen.

SONG LIST FROM NYE 2016 WORSHIP SERVICES

"Fierce" by Jesus Culture

"How Great Thou Art" (traditional)

"The Earth Is Yours" by Gungor

"We Believe" by Newsboys

"We Rejoice" by Elevation Worship

"Love, Love, Love" by Mia Schuster (a Catawba Worship member)

"I Need You to Survive" by Hezekiah Walker

"This I Believe (The Creed)" by Hillsong

"Unstoppable God" by Elevation Worship

"Shine on Us" by Bethel Worship

"Here's Where I Stand" by Tiffany Taylor

"Something Beautiful" by Need to Breathe

"Every Moment" by Forever Jones

"He Never Failed Me" (traditional)

"Ripple" by The Grateful Dead

"Lean on Me" by Bill Withers

"All the Poor and Powerless" by Sons & Daughters

"Shine on Us" by Newsboys

"Colorblind" by Destiny Stone (a Catawba Worship member)

https://play.spotify.com/track/1C1m3V0VIDAPwdPv8vgLx2?play=true&utm_source=open.spotify.com&utm_medium=open

"I Surrender" by Hillsong

"Be One" by Natalie Grant

"When You Believe" by Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston

"Dare You To Move" by Switchfoot

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND SPEAKERS

#ButterfliesEffect video from Disciples Home Missions' Green Chalice, shareable and viewable through <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice/>

Sean Russell, Stow It – Don't Throw It Project

Miko Peled, The General's Son: Journey of an Israeli in Palestine

Aidan Hornaday, Aidan Cares

Trisha Prabhu, ReThink Words

The Peace Poets

Michelle Higgins, #BlackLivesMatter

Hadiqa Bashir, winner of Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award