Wednesday Morning Worship Resources
Held Together
Colossians 3:12-15

Joyful Noise
There is More Love
Eres Fiel
Joy
Fresh as the Morning

Promo Spot – BVS and Workcamps (Video)

Announcements

Speaker Intros

It is a joy to welcome Elise Gage and Taylor Dudley, our youth speech contest winners, to the NYC stage this morning.

Elise Gage is an active member of the Manassas Church of the Brethren in Virginia. Elise, who hopes to one day be a Renewable Energy Engineer, plays volleyball, runs cross country, loves to read and write, enjoys hanging out with friends and family, stalks Captain America and has a strange fear of butterflies.

Taylor Dudley, who was born and raised in Franklin County, Virginia, is a member of the Smith Mountain Lake Church of the Brethren. Taylor, who is majoring in Social Work, is a competitive swimmer, enjoys working with differently abled children and adults, caring for the critters at an exotic animal farm, counseling at Camp Bethel, and traveling internationally. Her favorite animals are giraffes and sheep.

Elise and Taylor, we are eager to hear the message God will speak to us through you.

Call to Worship (Choir Anthem) – Draw the Circle Wide

Invocation

Awesome and Mysterious God, you are far greater than we can ever imagine. As we gather in this place to worship you, draw the circle wider that our experience and understanding of you, the still-point at the center of all creation, might be enlarged and enriched. Draw the circle wider, that as we stand side by side, lifting our voices in praise and proclamation, all who gather here might be bound together by our experiences of you and by your love, made flesh in Christ. Draw the circle wider, that our experiences in this place might inspire and embolden us to draw
the circle wider outside these walls until no one stands alone. Draw the circle wider, that we might be faithful to your call, sharing and bearing witness to Christ’s dream throughout our lives. Draw the circle wider still. So be it. Amen.

Song (Choir Exits) – *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

**Call to Give**

**Ivan:** This morning I was given the opportunity to share what it meant for me to be here, after the church I come from (Principe de Paz) received a NYC scholarship allowing the youth to be here at an affordable price.

But I knew my feelings would change as soon as I got here. It is Wednesday morning, and all I can say is that I am amazed at how this youth conference has changed me and the way I view things.

It has allowed me to become closer to God, but also find who I truly am and open up to new things in life. Having said that, I want to say that I am very thankful for being here and I know for a fact this won’t be the last time I attend NYC.

**Ashley:**

**Cameron:** “Now (we) are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27). We are bound together in Christ and by the time we have spent worshipping together, serving together, playing together, and growing together. This opportunity to dive deeper into our discipleship at NYC would not have been possible without the help of the offering we are about to take. There are many who would not be able to make this trip without your generosity and Christ’s body would be incomplete without each and every person present. Let us give generously, so that the gift of presence may be extended to others in 2022 and beyond. What a blessing it is to be bound together, clothed in Christ.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, We are grateful for this opportunity to come together and grow together as Christ's disciples. The experiences we have shared and will share here bind us to one another with chords that cannot be broken. Each person is an important part of our community. Christ's body would not be complete without the blessings of each person that enrich our life together. Bless now these gifts we have shared, that they might become a blessing to others, making it possible for future generations to share in this experience and grow in faith as Christ's disciples. Amen.
Movie Clip – *Here Comes the Boom*

**Colossians 3:12-15 – A Scripture Jam**

**Reader One:** As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved,
**Reader Two:** Chosen
**Reader Three:** Holy
**Reader Four:** Beloved
**Reader Two:** Created especially by God to fulfill God’s purposes
**Reader Three:** Blessed
**Reader Four:** Cherished and Adored

**Reader One:** Clothe yourselves with compassion,
**Reader Two and Three:** Compassion
**Reader Four:** Instead of aloofness or indifference

**Reader One:** kindness,
**Reader Three and Four:** Kindness
**Reader Two:** Instead of nastiness and cruelty

**Reader One:** humility,
**Reader Two and Four:** Humility
**Reader Three:** Instead of arrogance and conceit

**Reader One:** meekness,
**Reader Two and Three:** Meekness
**Reader Four:** Instead of ruthlessness and spitefulness

**Reader One:** and patience.
**Reader Three and Four:** Patience
**Reader Two:** Instead of frustration and annoyance
**Reader Four:** It’s a new wardrobe for a new way of life.

**Reader One:** Bear with one another
**Reader Three:** Bear
**Reader Two and Three:** Bear With
**Reader Two, Three, and Four:** Bear with one another
**Reader Three:** accepting them for who they are
**Reader Two:** including their weaknesses and growing edges, faults and flaws

**Reader One:** And if anyone has a complaint against another,
**Reader Four:** and we all know it happens

**Reader One:** forgive each other;
**Reader Two:** Forgive
**Reader Three:** Each
**Reader Four:** Other
Reader Two: Each other—there’s a sense of mutuality in that—we all need to both give and receive forgiveness

**Reader One: Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive,**
Reader Three: we are human
Reader Four: we are fallible
Reader Two: we screw up from time to time
Readers Three and Four: isn’t that the truth
Reader Two: but God in Christ always,
Readers Three and Four: always
Readers Two, Three, and Four: God always forgives
Reader Three: what a gift—a gift to be accepted with grace and then shared with others

**Reader One: Above all, clothe yourselves in love,**
Reader Four: Amor (Spanish)
Reader Three: Liebe (German)
Reader Two: Pyaar (Hindi)
Reader Three: Lanmou (Haitian Creole)
Reader Four: Upendo (Swahili)
Reader Two: Kauna (Hausa)
Reader Three: Agape (Greek)
Reader Four: Love...in any language it’s the same
Readers Two, Three, and Four: Clothe yourselves in love

**Reader One: which binds everything**
Readers Two, Three, and Four: everything

**Reader One: love which binds everything together**
Reader Three: like super glue

**Reader One: together in perfect harmony.**
Reader Four: Perfect
Reader Two: Harmony

**Reader One: And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,**
Reader Three: The peace which passes all understanding
Reader Two: and reconciles us to God and one another

**Reader One: To which indeed you were called in the one body.**
Readers Three and Four: many parts,
Reader Two and Three: many gifts,
Reader Four: one love,
Reader Two: one peace,
Reader Three: one community
Readers Two, Three, and Four: one body

**Reader One: And be thankful.**
Reader Three: Be
Reader Two: Thankful
Reader Four: Because God is good

Message - Taylor Dudley

Song - *Bound Together, Clothed in Christ*

Message - Elise Gage

Song - *Ken Medema Works His Magic*

Benediction

Taylor: As you go forth into this day, draw the circle wider. Be open to new experiences of God.
Elise: Draw the circle wider, that the bonds we share might be expanded and strengthened.
Taylor: Draw the circle wider, until no one--absolutely no one--stands alone.
Taylor and Elise: Draw the circle wider.