



Act of Covenant and Community Formation

Reader One: “We are one body, one body in Christ, and we do not stand alone.” Take a moment to think about that. *(After a few seconds of silence)* What does it mean to you to be part of “one body in Christ”? *(A few seconds of silence)* What does that mean to us? What quality of relationship is asked of each one of us?

Reader Two: In preparation for NYC, each of us signed a covenant as a way of demonstrating shared commitment—our willingness to be in Christian relationship with one another. By choosing to be part of the NYC 2010 community, we have entered into a covenantal relationship. The spirit of this covenant is to foster Christ-centered, responsible, and life-giving actions and interactions.

Reader Three: Because we come from such different places in terms of geography, culture, and the way we think about (and relate to) God and our world, we must take special care to be gentle with each other this week. There may be times when our viewpoints seem incompatible, but we cannot allow disrespectful words or ideas to enter our conversations. Let us celebrate the creation of this Christ-centered covenant. As you entered this holy space, you were each given a single glass stone representing your individual presence in this place. The ushers will come through, gathering them one by one, stone by stone, and carry them forward to place them in this cross. For Christ is our peace; it is by the grace of God in Christ that we are able to build community. Trusting the Spirit to lead the way, offer your stone, offer yourself, to God and this gathered body of Christ.

(Concludes with collection of glass stones and placement of stones in cross-shaped container)

*~Written by Becky Ullom, Audrey Hollenberg, and Emily LaPrade
Used Saturday Evening Worship Celebration
Theme: A Yearning to Belong
July 17, 2010*

Blessing with Glow Sticks

(Raise a broken glow stick.) This little light—the assurance of your identity, the flame of the Spirit, the grace of Christ—let it shine.

*~Used Sunday Evening Worship Celebration
Theme: Searching for Identity
July 18, 2010*

National Youth Conference 2010

More than Meets the Eye

Other Worship Materials

Reflection- Introduction to *Nooma: Name* vol. 18 by Rob Bell
(By Josh Brockway)

It took me awhile, but I finally found my name. For so long everyone gave it to me. When I would share my name, inevitably it would get changed. No matter how hard I tried to be clear about who I am, others always seemed to have a better idea. Finally, I typed it in, and my screen name was accepted without change! It was an exciting moment!

I am sure you all have had the same experience coming up with the perfect e-mail address, screen name, Twitter account. Each time we set up an account we are pressed to sum up our entire life, all in 20 characters or less. The pressure to construct a name to communicate to the world who we ARE is immense. When it comes down to it... what's your name? Who are YOU?

*~Written by Josh Brockway
Used Sunday Evening Worship Celebration
Theme: Searching for Identity
July 18, 2010*

Blessing

Reader 1: Go now with deeper courage to face brokenness.

Reader 2: Go now with deeper sight to see the extraordinary in the ordinary.

Reader 3: Go now with deeper love to open the way for Christ's healing light.

All: Go now in peace.

*~Written by Katie Shaw Thompson
Used Monday Morning Worship Celebration
Theme: Facing Brokenness
July 19, 2010*

Responsive Litany in Three Parts

Part 1

Reader 1: God made light on the very first day:

Reader 2: Day was born along with the night,
And the Word with God brought life.

**All: God's light will shine so all can see
There's more than meets the eye!**

Reader 1: Jesus came to the unseen ones:

National Youth Conference 2010

More than Meets the Eye

Other Worship Materials

Reader 2: The hungry were fed.
The despised were loved.

**ALL: God's light will shine so all can see
There's more than meets the eye!**

Reader 1: Through God's eyes we see our lives:

Reader 2: We are blessed while broken,
Rejected yet chosen.

**ALL: God's light will shine so all can see
There's more than meets the eye!**

Reader 1: With the Spirit's vision we see our world:

Reader 2: We are ravaged by war
And the desire for more.

**ALL: God's light will shine so all can see
There's more than meets the eye!**

Reader 1: Christ's life revealed what is yet to come:

Reader 2: God will give sight to the blind,
And captives' chains will unbind.

**ALL: God's light will shine so all can see
There's more than meets the eye!**

Reader 1: One day our world will know God's peace:

Reader 2: Lions and lambs will lie down,
And swords will plow the ground.

**ALL: God's light will shine so all can see
There's more than meets the eye!**

Reader 1: We carry this message around in clay pots:

Reader 2: We're battered, not beaten,
Thrown down, but not broken.

National Youth Conference 2010

More than Meets the Eye

Other Worship Materials

**ALL: God's light will shine so all can see
There's more than meets the eye!**

Reader 1: We may not believe it, but our God is with us:

Reader 2: God's grace puts together
What's falling apart.

**ALL: God's light will shine so all can see
There's more than meets the eye!**

Reader 1: Through Jesus, God transforms us:

Reader 2: We're given new life
To bring the world love.

**ALL: God's light will shine so all can see
There's more than meets the eye!**

Part 2

Reader 1: When the earth beneath our neighbors shakes and scatters,

Reader 2: We gather pencils and rulers, notebooks and scissors.

**ALL: Transforming the world through kindness and love,
Working with God, we are more than meets the eye.**

Reader 1: When victims of war need more small farms, and less tiny meals,

Reader 2: We send out heifers and pigs, goats and chickens, rabbits and sheep.

**ALL: Transforming the world through kindness and love,
Working with God, we are more than meets the eye.**

Reader 1: When our neighbors are hungry, working hard to get by,

Reader 2: We feed them in soup lines, sit and talk, wipe their eyes.

**ALL: Transforming the world through kindness and love,
Working with God, we are more than meets the eye.**

National Youth Conference 2010
More than Meets the Eye
Other Worship Materials

Reader 1: When generals send our friends away to fight,

Reader 2: We greet our leaders with the peace of Christ.

**ALL: Transforming the world through kindness and love,
Working with God, we are more than meets the eye.**

Reader 1: When our neighbors are wandering alone without help,

Reader 2: We invite them to join us in Jesus' new hope.

**ALL: Transforming the world through kindness and love,
Working with God, we are more than meets the eye.**

Reader 1: When the whole church argues over who's in and who's out,

Reader 2: We wash feet, share a meal, break bread, drink the cup.

**ALL: Transforming the world through kindness and love,
Working with God, we are more than meets the eye.**

Reader 1: When the world yearns for food, for vision, for peace.

Reader 2: We go to those places with our hearts, prayers and bodies.

**ALL: Transforming the world through kindness and love,
Working with God, we are more than meets the eye.**

Part 3

Reader 1: Look around you now and see your neighbors:
friends and strangers you know everything, and nothing, about.

Reader 2: May the God of new vision guide your eyes to see
The holy treasure hidden in their hearts.

**ALL: There's more to them than meets our eyes.
But in God's eyes, there's more than we could ever know.**

Reader 1: Remember your friends, and your enemies, back home:
Those you love and those you hate.

National Youth Conference 2010

More than Meets the Eye

Other Worship Materials

Reader 2: May the God of new vision guide your eyes to see
The holy treasure hidden in their hearts.

**ALL: There's more to them than meets our eyes.
But in God's eyes, there's more than we could ever know.**

Reader 1: Think of the people who sit in your church pews:
Old and young, kind and angry, boisterous and quiet.

Reader 2: May the God of new vision guide your eyes to see
The holy treasure hidden in their hearts.

**ALL: There's more to them than meets our eyes.
But in God's eyes, there's more than we could ever know.**

Reader 1: Think of the people in your hometown without shelter or food:
Children and adults, out of work or underemployed.

Reader 2: May the God of new vision guide your eyes to see
The holy treasure hidden in their hearts.

**ALL: There's more to them than meets our eyes.
But in God's eyes, there's more than we could ever know.**

Reader 1: Think of the world's leaders who command armies
and respond to disasters:
In Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and Israel,
Haiti and the Gulf of Mexico.

Reader 2: May the God of new vision guide your eyes to see
The holy treasure hidden in their hearts.

**ALL: There's more to them than meets our eyes.
But in God's eyes, there's more than we could ever know.**

Reader 1: Think of church workers and others who care,
Feeding the hungry, teaching the young, healing the sick.

Reader 2: May the God of new vision guide your eyes to see
The holy treasure hidden in their hearts.

National Youth Conference 2010

More than Meets the Eye

Other Worship Materials

**ALL: There's more to them than meets our eyes.
But in God's eyes, there's more than we could ever know.**

Reader 1: Now think of yourselves, away from home, worried or glad,
Gathered here now, but soon to return to your lives as God's people.

Reader 2: May the God of new vision guide your eyes to see
The holy treasure hidden in *your* hearts.

**ALL: There's more to *us* than meets our eyes.
But in God's eyes, there's more than we could ever know.**

Reader 1: Please join with us as we close in responsive prayer:
God of new vision,
Guide our eyes to see your world made new.

Reader 2: Reveal to us your holy treasure
Hidden in your loving heart,

**ALL: That we may live
As your vessels,
Broken but blessed,
Seeing but knowing
There's more than meets the eye!
Amen.**

*~Written by Travis Poling
Used Monday Morning Worship Celebration
Theme: Facing Brokenness
July 19, 2010*

Benediction

God's grace and forgiveness have the power to transform our lives –breaking down the barriers and walls that hide or hinder the Christ light within us.

As we are welcomed with open arms to the feast that God has prepared in our honor, may God's transforming grace manifest itself within us that we are able to go and do likewise – inviting others to share in God's great welcome home feast. Amen

*~Used Tuesday Morning Worship Celebration
Theme: Accepting Grace
July 20, 2010*

National Youth Conference 2010

More than Meets the Eye

Other Worship Materials

Introductory Statement to a Clip from *Avatar*

In James Cameron's cinematic epic *Avatar* we are offered a host of political, theological, and spiritual challenges. Tonight we take up the broad and profound theme of grace.

As you may remember, the desire of the humans is to gain access to the financially rich unobtainium deposits, the largest lying beneath the Hometree—Omaticaya. The services of the main character, paraplegic Jake Sully are employed following the death of his brother. Because of the DNA Jake shares with his brother he can best link with his brother's Avatar.

Jake is confronted with competing goals: On the one hand the military wants access through any means to the unobtainium deposit. On the other hand his research team is interested in learning all they can about the local Na'vi people. Throughout the movie these goals run counter to each other. As his trust and appreciation for the Na'vi people grow, he finds himself in a dilemma: Continue to assist the military in their objective or help protect the Na'vi and what they have to offer?

We pick up the film just as the Hometree is destroyed by the military and the Na'vi people scatter in horror. Jake seeks out Neytiri, whose father is dying following the attack. It is a moment of trust broken. In the aftermath Jake is faced with the difficult challenge of asking for grace and forgiveness.

Watch for the pain and despair and quick anger of the Na'vi. Watch for Jake's attempt to restore relationship from outcast, betrayer, alien to insider, servant, citizen. And watch for the subtle non-verbal communication between Neytiri and Jake that gives her the trust to say, "I see you." That is, "I see into your heart; I see your contrition, your regret for what has happened to my people. I see your willingness and desire to make things right."

Giving, or receiving, grace is never easy, never cheap. Risks abound...but it makes us human.

*~Used Tuesday Evening Worship Celebration
Theme: Accepting Grace
July 20, 2010*

Blessing

You are the transformers of tomorrow.
Risk letting your God-given light shine in an often dim world,
and take comfort in knowing
that you stand in long tradition of risk-taking transformers,
who call Jesus their model. Amen.

*~Written by Katie Shaw Thompson
Used Wednesday Morning Worship Celebration
Theme: Extending Agape Love
July 21, 2010*

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