Opening Prayer
Maker of heaven and earth, gather us in and make of us one body. Individually and together, we are overwhelmed with gratitude, humbled by feelings of love and joy, and seeking your guidance in our lives. Tonight, and throughout this week, may you call us, awaken us, nourish us, heal us, teach us, and form us anew, that your light, your love, and your life might shine through us like a treasure in clay jars. Amen.

~Written by Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, inspired by the writings of Robert Schnase
Used Saturday Evening Worship Celebration
Theme: A Yearning for Belonging
July 17, 2010

Invocation
God, you know me better than I know myself. Wherever I go, you are right there. If I walk one way, you walk with me; and wherever I have been, you know it well. While I am trying to figure out what I am going to say, you already know what it is. You place your hand on me, and I feel loved. It is too much to take in.

Is there no way to hide from you? Is there any place where I can escape? I go high – you are there. I go down low – you are there.

If I could fly, you would be nearby; If I were to swim miles and miles, you would take hold of me and set me in the right direction.

You have made every part of me; you were there creating me in my mother’s womb before I was born. All this is much more than I can fathom! You watched every step of how I was formed; you saw my body grow, all according to your plan. You knew the direction of my life, even before my life began. Your mind is so deep-beyond my understanding!

Find me, study me, and look deeply into my thoughts. Lead me, God. Lead me. Amen

~Prayers Before An Awesome God: The Psalms for Teenagers
David Haas, St. Mary’s Press, Christian Brothers Publications, Winona, Minnesota, 2006
Used Sunday Morning Worship Celebration
Theme: Searching for Identity
July 18, 2010

Opening Prayer
God among us, fill this space with your peace. Reveal your flame within us all, a people yearning to reflect your light. Move through our body, strengthen this community, and empower our lives anew. We open ourselves to your moving spirit, AMEN.

~Written by Kay Guyer
Used Sunday Evening Worship Celebration
Theme: Searching for Identity
July 18, 2010

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Opening Prayer
All-knowing God, who holds all our pieces, 
and sees to the depths of our beings, 
call forth the light of Christ in each of us 
this day and every day, 
that we would find the courage to grow 
ever more fully into the whole children of God 
we are called to be. 
In the name of a peace that makes us whole we pray. Amen.

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

Prayer
God of the seen and the unseen, 
God of the known and the unknown, 
open our ears, open our minds, open our hearts 
to your word and those who bring it 
that we might be stirred to learn and grow. 
In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

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

Invocation
Lord of the mountains and the sky, you have met us here accepting our offerings of tears, joy, and praise. By our meeting you here, you have made this place holy. By joining us here, you have asked how we belong and who we are. Now you ask us to explore how we are broken, a reality to try not to see. By meeting us now, we ask that you make this place holy and safe, inviting us into a fuller life in you. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

~Written by Josh Brockway
Used Monday Evening Worship Celebration
Theme: Facing Brokenness
July 19, 2010
Invocation
O God, we open ourselves to you, bearing our souls. Sometimes it’s an uncomfortable place to be, because we have become such a private people. We put up walls and barriers to keep people out...from knowing our business. We don’t want to air our dirty laundry for anyone to see or know. Yet You know every intimate detail about us...who we are, what we do, our past, our future.

Welcome us home O God, and make your grace known to us, breaking down the barriers, setting us free from our brokenness and allowing our true light to shine forth. We pray in the name of the One who sees beyond what we can see ourselves. Amen

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

Opening Prayer
God of Grace and God of Glory, by your power may we encounter the living, loving Christ in this place. We are human. We are broken. But Christ sees beauty and wonder. Christ sees our deepest and highest selves. Open our eyes that we might see ourselves as Christ sees us. Open our hearts and minds that we might accept the awesome gift of grace Christ offers to us, transforming us so that we may know life in all its fullness. And then, as ones who can bear witness to the power of your transforming grace, help us view the world through Christ’s eyes and reach out to others with love and grace that all might come to know the life that is really life. Amen.

~Written by Rhonda Pittman Gingrich
Used Tuesday Evening Worship Celebration
Theme: Accepting Grace
July 20, 2010

Invocation
Transforming God, your love and grace so heals and nurtures our hearts, that we are moved to love others.
Call our love to action, that we would be the feet and hands of Christ, that all would know a foretaste of the healing, whole-making peace of God on our yet broken Earth.
In the name of your transforming grace we pray, Amen.

~Written by Katie Shaw Thompson
Used Wednesday Morning Worship Celebration
Theme: Extending Agape Love
July 21, 2010
Prayer
Inspiring God, we give thanks for the work of your people, who have formed a tradition of courageous acts that make your transforming grace clear and known. Guide our feet that we do take up the next leg of this journey with a fierce urgency that honors your call, as you called our ancestors, to shine your light in our world through action. In the name Christ we pray. Amen.

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

Opening Prayer
Reader Two: You are beyond our knowing dear God; Reader One: And yet, with each breath, you are there.
(Reader takes a deep breath.)
Two: In the hurts of this world, you are there. One: In the pain of injustice, you are there. Two: In the anguish of loss and grief, you are there. One: In the reaching out to another, you are there. Two: In the extending of love, you are there. One: Open our hearts to see Christ in the persons right in front of us. Amen.

~Written by Jim Chinworth
Used Wednesday Evening Worship Celebration
Theme: Extending Agape
July 21, 2010

Opening Prayer
Inviting God, you have begun a transformation in each one of us. We are not the same people that we were coming to this place just five days ago. Through song and dance, word and silence, laughter and tears, we have experienced your agape love and grace. We are listening for your call on our lives. We have seen you in the faces of our sisters and brothers in this gathered community. We are grateful for what we have already experienced here. As we gather now for this last worship celebration at National Youth Conference 2010, we acknowledge that you are already in our midst. Open our minds, our hearts and our very lives to all that you have for us this morning. You are creating something new in each of us and we know that there is more than meets the eye. Amen.

~Written by 2010 NYC Spiritual Directors: Pam Reist, Kimberly Koczan-Flory, David Doubt, Robert Alley
Used Thursday Morning Worship Celebration
Theme: Manifesting Joy
July 22, 2010

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