

National Youth Conference 2022 Worship Resources

Foundational (Colossians 2: 5-7)

Wednesday Evening (July 27) Call to Worship

By Shawn Flory Replogle, Worship Coordinator

One: It...is...time. Right now.

ALL: Open us.

One: There is no night beyond tonight at National Youth Conference 2022.

[slight pause]

One: It is time.

ALL: Open us.

One: It is time to do the hard work,

ALL: to dig deep

One: to build foundations of faith.

ALL: to Level Up.

One: It is time.

ALL: Open us.

One: It is time to see others... **really** see others

ALL: for the creative miracles God has created all of us to be.

One: It is time.

ALL: Open us.

One: It is time to hold the brokenness within us,

ALL: while acknowledging the broken outside of us.

One: It is time.

ALL: Open us.

One: It is time – if we are ready – to take one small step towards healing in Jesus.

ALL: Tonight, may the healing oils flow freely.

One: May the music soothe our souls.

ALL: May the words spoken begin to fill in the cracks of our hearts

One: that we may grow ever closer to Jesus, the Beloved.

ALL: Open us.

One: It is time.

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Wednesday Evening (July 27) Opening Prayer

By Shawn Flory Replogle, Worship Coordinator

Please pray with me:

Creating God,

Thank you for this week.

Thank you for the fun and laughter and friends, old and new.

Thank you for the opportunity to hear encouraging and challenging speakers,
who push, pull, and prod us towards a deeper understanding and relationship with you.
Thank you for inspiring music,

Thank you for your love for every person who has had a part in making this event
what it is. For sure we thank you for NYC staff and volunteers, but also for university
staff who greet us with a smile in the dining halls, or who have a part in keeping clean
the spaces we use. And we thank you for all the friends and family in congregations
from the places from where we've come, who worked hard so that we could be here
tonight, who helped with fundraisers, who gave money at fundraisers, who endured
more fundraisers, all so that we might have the opportunity to know you more deeply.

We confess we have not always noticed all the people mentioned who make up
each of our moments in time. Forgive us for being so short-sighted, for not seeing
others, and how, in turn, this prevents us from truly seeing You completely.
In our remaining NYC 2022 time, guide us on the journey. Help us do the hard work. Let
our fears be few. Give us the courage to be less afraid.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

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Wednesday Evening (July 27) Scripture Drama

By Seth Hendricks, Wednesday Evening Speaker

Luke 17: 11-19

It happened as Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, crossing over the border between Samaria and Galilee. There he entered a village.

That's where I was with 9 others at the time. Lepers is what they called us.

Have you heard of leprosy? Any fellow or recovering lepers out there?

Okay. None.

We'll be glad. It's not a pretty disease. If you had seen me then you wouldn't even recognize the person you see now. Scabs, peeling, white patches on the skin, hair turned white, bald spots on your head.

Highly contagious. Those who were diagnosed with leprosy were quarantined and isolated from the rest of society.

Can you imagine being quarantined and isolated from society?

And if that wasn't enough, Jewish law actually required those with leprosy to shout, "Unclean, unclean" when people approached, to avoid contaminating others. We were forced outside of the community.

Leprosy wasn't just a physical ailment though; it had a spiritual element too. In Jewish tradition, a leper was someone who God had smited. Basically, a disease inflicted by God upon those who had not followed the laws.

So, you can see we were in bad shape but there we were.

First, we discussed how to approach Jesus. I thought maybe we should cast lots or pick a number that seemed like good luck. Seven was my choice, a strong number but not too many people to overwhelm the guy.

However, someone else didn't think odd numbers were a good idea. Finally, we decided to go the avenue of "strength in numbers" and off we all went.

As the 10 of us approached him, we kept our social distancing,

Are you all familiar with social distancing?

then we called out,

"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

When he saw us, he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

Now I thought this might be another layer of embarrassment,
but I went anyway

And as we went, we were made clean.

Can you imagine how that felt?

Not just to be healed from this illness but the priests were like the gatekeepers of the community and upon their declaration we were brought back into community, isolation over!

But here is where things really got weird...

One of us, the one we called "the Samaritan" when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice.

He kneeled at Jesus' feet, so grateful, he couldn't thank him enough

And did I say he was a Samaritan?

Then I overheard Jesus ask, "Were not ten healed? Where are the other nine? Can none be found to come back and give glory to God except this outsider?"

Then he told him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."