



**UNITED WE GO**  
GLOBAL YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONVOCATION  
— JULY 18-22, 2018 —

## A Celebration of Worship

*Worship Theme: We*  
Friday, July 20, 2018

### Opening music

*Worship Team, Gracepoint Church (The Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Johannesburg)*

### Introduction to Worship Theme

*Tyler Smoot*

In the aftermath of apartheid, the Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa helped the country to move forward. One way that he did so was to focus on an ancient African term in the Nguni language, “ubuntu.” This word, he explained, means, “I am, because we are.”

In South Africa, *ubuntu* helped this people repair the fabric of “we,” to discover their interdependence. The Bible has much to say about who WE are as Christ’s disciples, and as God’s servants in the world. I invite

you to reflect on *ubuntu*, on “we” – who we are – as you worship tonight.

### Opening Reading & Prayer

*“Our Churches Are Like Big Families” from West Africa*

Reader 1: Lord, we thank you that our churches are like big families.

Reader 2: Lord, let your spirit of reconciliation blow over all the earth.

**All: Let Christians live your love.**

Reader 3: We praise you in Europe’s cathedrals,

Reader 4: In America’s offerings,

Reader 5: And in our African songs of praise.

**All: Lord, we thank you that we have brothers and sisters in all the world.**

**Be with them that make peace.**

**Amen.**

### Songs of Worship

*Led by Gracepoint Worship Team*

*Somlandela (with Love Is Calling)*

*This Is Amazing Grace (with tag in Sotho language)*

*Who You Say I Am*

*What A Beautiful Name*

### Testimony: The Church During South Africa’s Apartheid

--- Testimony from Leston Motsepe ---

### Preparation for the Word

Leader: Light of the World, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,

we may hear with joy what you say to us today. And all God's people say...

**All: Amen.**

### **Song of illumination**

*"Alleluia" (UMH 186), led by choir, a capella*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

I will praise You, I will praise You, I will praise You, I will praise You

### **Reading of Scripture**

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NRSV)*

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **Sermon**

*Runyararo Dzobo (Lay preacher, Zimbabwe)*

### **Song of Worship**

*Gracepoint Worship Team*

*Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)*

### **Response to the Word – Time of Prayer with Partners**

*Led by Leston Motsepe*

Where do you see the forces of hatred, racism, pride, selfishness, in your home, your school, your society? *(On screen: "Where do you see the fabric of "we" being torn? Hatred, racism, pride, selfishness")* Write a word or two for where you see these forces at work, for where the fabric of "we" is being torn. As you write, pray about these places of need.

Where do you see the fabric of "we" being repaired? Where do you see *ubuntu*? *(On screen: "Where do you see ubuntu, "we"?)* Pray about how you may be an agent of change. Pray about how you may repair and restore the fabric of "we" in your own home.

Leader: Pray with me:

Great Liberator, today we have heard stories of bondage. Bondage to the forces of hatred, racism, selfishness, and pride. These forces enabled apartheid to take place, but these forces are also at work in our own lives and homes. Too often, we allow them to continue.

**All: Forgiving One, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

Leader: Today we have heard stories of victory. Those who struggled against evil in this world, and fought to bring about your justice and shalom. We want to be actors in your holy drama, we want to bring about your justice and shalom also.

**All: Free us for joyful obedience, Merciful One!**  
**Let us restore the fabric of “we” that you have woven around and between us.**  
**Free us, our Amazing Grace!**  
**Make us agents of change.**  
**Make us people of prayer.**  
**Make us into the “we” that you want us to be.**  
**Amen.**

**Songs of Closing**

*Gracepoint Worship Team*  
*Hope’s Anthem (with Zulu tag)*  
*No Longer Slaves*

**Words of Sending**

*Runyararo Dzobo*