

February 27, 2022
Transfiguration Sunday

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Christ Whose Glory Fills The Skies" by Johann Werner arranged by Cindy Berry

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

Rejoice, people of God! Celebrate the life within you,
and Christ's presence in your midst!

**Our eyes shall be opened! The present will have new meaning,
and the future will be bright with hope.**

Rejoice, people of God! Bow your heads before the One
who is our wisdom and our strength.

**We place ourselves before God, that we may be touched
and cleansed by the power of God's spirit.**

Hymn VU 413 "O Splendour of God's Glory Bright"

O splendour of God's glory bright,
from light eternal bringing light;
O light of life, light's living spring,
true day, all days illumining:

come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
pour down your radiance from above,
and to our inward hearts convey
the Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.

O joyful be the passing day
with thoughts as clear as morning's ray,
with faith like noontide shining bright,
our souls unshadowed by the night.

O Christ, with each returning morn
your image to our hearts is born;
O may we ever see anew
our Saviour and our God in you!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

God of power and wonder, we are awestruck by the glory of your presence. We rejoice at what we can see; we marvel at what we cannot see. You dazzle us with your brightness; you overshadow us as with a great cloud. Christ, you show us light, yet all too often we choose the shadows. In your Word you offer guidance, yet frequently we ignore your counsel. In your Spirit you promise renewal, yet mysteriously we remain the same. Speak to us from beyond the clouds of sin. Dazzle us anew with the light of love. Forgive us, love us, protect us, challenge us, nurture, strengthen, and transform us, that we may love and serve you in all that we are and in all that we do. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "Climbin' Up The Mountain, Children!" by Rollo Dilworth
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBIB889snls>

Responsive Reading: Psalm 99

You reign, O God, and the peoples tremble,
you sit enthroned upon the cherubim, and the earth is quaking.

**You, O God, are great in Zion,
you are exalted over all the nations.**

Let them praise your great and awesome name:
holy are you and mighty, a ruler who delights in justice.

**You have determined what is fair,
you have done in Jacob what is just and right.**

Moses and Aaron were among your priests,
Miriam among those who called on your name;
they called to you, God, and you answered.

**In the pillar of cloud you spoke to them,
they kept your teachings and the law that you gave them.**

O God, our God, you answered them;

**to them you were a forgiving God,
though you punished their offences.**

Proclaim the greatness of God
and worship on God's holy hill;

for God, our God, is the Holy One.

Scripture: Luke 9:28-36

The Transfiguration

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Exodus 34:29-35;**
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2. You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage..... in any translation you prefer (ie. King James – KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)*

Hymn VU 103 "How Good, Lord, to Be Here"

How good, Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.

How good, Lord, to be here,
your beauty to behold,
where Moses and Elijah stand,
your messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past
and hope of things to be,
we hail your body glorified,
and our redemption see!

Before we taste of death,
we see your kingdom come:
we long to hold the vision bright
and make this hill our home!

How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
but, since you bid us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.

Meditation: "Limited Time Offer"

Hymn VU 457 "As We Gather at Your Table"

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts, people of God.

We open them to the One who loves us.

People of God, give thanks to the One who meets us on the mountaintops of glory and in the valleys of service.

It is good that we offer praise and thanksgiving to the One who is with us in every moment.

You crafted mountains on which we might find your majesty; you carved rivers of life where we might bathe in your grace. All things were shaped by you, Bright Glory of creation, and given that we might live in the abundance of your hopes for us. When we could have lived in that garden of serenity which you planted for us, we caught a glimpse of temptation out of the corners of our eyes, and sought gifts from sin and death, who were only too eager to offer us a double portion. You sent the prophets to lead us out of the valleys of despair back to the mountaintop with you, but we chose to remain in the company of the false gods of this world. But you would not forsake us, but became one of us, that we might be transformed into your faithful children. With the Breath of life within us, with the Word of grace in our hearts, we join all who have gone before us, and with those who are with us now, singing the ancient song of glory:

Holy, holy, holy, God of glory and grace.

Heaven and earth sing loud songs of praise to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to offer us a double portion of grace and mercy.

Hosanna in the highest!

Mighty God, lover of justice, you summoned your Son, our Saviour, to come to us that we might be redeemed. Coming down Glory's mountainside, he does not remain silent about your hopes, but calls to us to follow him into your kingdom of mercy and love. He carried his cross to the top of that garbage heap called Calvary, to be put to death beside two thieves. Surrounded by sin and death in the tomb, he made a path through them into the new life given by God, tearing their power over us into pieces. Remembering that he could have chosen to stay with Moses and Elijah, but came to serve us, we proclaim our faith as we come to the Table:

In love, Christ died.

In joy, Christ rose.

In glory, Christ will come again.

Now, on the gifts of the bread and the cup, and on your children gathered in this place, pour out your Spirit, God of Joy. As we share the brokenness of Christ, may we be restored to wholeness; as we drink of his forgiveness, may we become more gracious. As he prayed for us, so we too pray for one another. We pray that you would empower Christ's church throughout the world in its life and witness, that, united in your truth and love the church may confess your name, share one baptism, sit together at one table, and serve you in one common ministry. This week we pray especially for Mount Elgin United Church. We pray for the nations, especially we think of the people of Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. We pray for those who mourn, especially the friends and family of Jane Smith and Alexis Statham. We pray for all who are ill, especially..... and their friends and families and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

May Jesus' return in faith find us praying for your peace; may his return in hope, find us working for your justice; may his return in love, find us welcoming all your children. And when Christ does come again in glory, when all have received a double portion of your grace, when creation is made whole once again, and joins in the glad songs of praise, we will worship and adore you, forever and ever. This we pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray, saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

We give thanks, almighty God, that bread broken brings wholeness;
that wine poured out replenishes;
that time spent with the Risen Christ and with one another is both gift and grace. Amen.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God offered us the gift of life. Jesus offered us his life.
We offer God what we can, our lives, our time, our gifts and skills, and our resources, that we too might offer light and hope in the darkness of this world.

Jesus, you came to bring light to a world of darkness. Accept the gifts we offer. May they be used to offer hope, shining light into the dark corners of this world, transforming life for all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn VU 646 "We Are Marching"

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
(the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
oo-oo, (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.
(the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
oo-oo, (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

Commissioning and Benediction

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

**May the light of our lives shine like a beacon,
offering hope to people who walk in darkness,
that they will glorify God.**

Go in peace.

God is with you.

Amen.

Sung Response: VU 974 "Amen"

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Postlude: "Take the Bread and Wine" by Faye Lopez

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

Lenten Reflections: Wednesdays at 1:30 we will be delving into Lenten Reflections in Betty Lynn Schwab's book *Diving Deeply* commencing Ash Wednesday, March 2. If you are interested in joining, please let Rev. Mark know so he can send you the zoom link.

Scripture Readings for next week:

March 2, 2022. (Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 6, 2022 (First Sunday of Lent)

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13