

**Sunday February 15, 2026
Transfiguration Sunday**

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" Jonathon Werner. Arranged by Cindy Berry

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

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 our God, that we may be touched,
and cleansed by the power of God's Spirit.**

Hymn VU 103 "How Good, Lord, to Be Here" Words: Joseph Armitage Robinson, 1888, alt.

Music: Charles Lockhart, 1792. Descant: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1947.

Words, Music, and Descant in the Public Domain.

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.

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. Christ, you show us light, yet we still choose the shadows. In your Word you offer guidance, yet we ignore your counsel. In your Spirit you promise renewal, yet we remain the same. Forgive us. Restore us. Speak to us from beyond the clouds of sin. Dazzle us anew with the light of your love. Free us once again to love and to serve. In Christ's name. Amen.

A New Creed VU 918

We are not alone,
 we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
 who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus,
 the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others
 by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
 to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect in Creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 356 "Seek Ye First the Kingdom" Words, Music, and Descant: Karen Lafferty, 1972.

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We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 99

You rule with justice in delight, and faithfulness maintain.

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.**

You rule with justice in delight, and faithfulness maintain.

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 offenses.**

Proclaim the greatness of God
and worship on God's holy hill;
for God, our God, is the Holy One.

You rule with justice in delight, and faithfulness maintain.

Scripture: Exodus 24:12-18, 34:29-35 On the Mountain with God / The shining face of Moses

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in

commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face, but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out, and when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining, and Moses would put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with him.

*The other lectionary readings for this week are: **Psalm 2 (alt); 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9***

Sermon: “Pregnant?”

Hymn VU 92 “In the Darkness Shines the Splendour” Words: Bernadette Gasslein, 1992, alt.

Music: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849; harm. Arthur Henry Mann, 1919.

Words: © 1992 Bernadette Gasslein. Music: Henry John Gauntlett.

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May the God of mountaintops be with you.

And also with you.

Do not be afraid to come to our God.

We come, offering our hearts in joy and hope.

Here, at this Table, sing praises to God.

We rejoice, singing our thanks to the One who welcomes us here.

With the Word and the Spirit, Majestic Glory,

you conspired against chaos,

shrouding mountains in clouds,

teaching birds how to sing,

carving paths for waters to race to the seas.

You shaped us in your image,

yearning to be with your beloved children,

but we did not want to be tied to your apron strings,

and so went down the rabbit trails devised by sin and death.

You sent prophets to us,

who called us back to you over and over,

yet we would not pay attention to their Yield and Stop signs.

So you sent your Beloved to us,

so we might return to you.

With those who stood on mountaintops,

and those who serve in the valleys,

we lift our songs to you:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You alone are holy, God of our hearts,
and your Child, Jesus Christ, is our Saviour.
He was not afraid to become one of us,
being faithful to your call.
He was willing to walk in the shadowed corners of life,
so your hope might shine forth like the sun.
As those around him conspired,
he went up to the cross where death waited to defeat him,
yet your glory settled upon him as he walked out of the tomb.
As we journey with him up the mountain,
as he walks with us through our valleys,
we are a part of that mystery we call faith:
**Christ died, coming to the end of life;
Christ rose, coming with the bright sun of the resurrection;
Christ will come, so we may be God's beloved children.**

We come to the Table where,
by the presence of the Spirit,
bread becomes the grace we need,
the cup offers us the hope for which we long.
Taking them up, you transfigure them into that sacred meal of love
which strengthens us to get up and go into our neighborhoods,
bringing light to the shadows,
hope for the despairing,
especially those living in war zones and disaster areas,
healing for the broken,
justice for the forsaken,
comfort to those who mourn,
especially the friends and family of Butch Hoxar, Bruce Greeniaus, and Joyce Scott,
strength to those who are ill,
especially Arnold, Cindy, Gloria, Julie, Rob, and their loved ones, and their caregivers, and those
known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

And when you gather us up,
taking us to the holy place of your heart,
we will join with those of every time and place,
forever singing your praises, and praying as Jesus taught us,

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass 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.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Through our tithes and offerings we welcome the community into our building; we baptize, marry and celebrate the lives of the saints with grace and with love; we equip people to live and lead in the way of Jesus; we teach new generations the awesome things God has done; and so much more. I invite you to participate in these ministries through your tithes and offerings, and Thank you. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

Offertory Hymn: "Star of Wonder" Words: unknown. Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; in the Public Domain.

Star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Grant us God, the grace of giving
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, we pour out our treasures that they might be used to transform all those who find themselves in the valleys of hunger, of loss, of loneliness, and of injustice. Bless the treasures we offer, multiply and use them to shine your light into all the dark corners of this world, illuminating injustice, showing forth hope for all people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn MV 23 "Come, O Holy Spirit" Words: Fred Kaan, 1972, rev. 1998. Music: Ron Klusmeier, 2000.
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Come, O Holy Spirit, set the Church on fire;
strike it as the lightning hits a posing spire.
Burn away the structures and consume the sham
of our holy systems: Come, in Jesus' name!

Come, come, come, in Jesus' name!

Take our hearts by storm.

All the world lies open: Pentecost is now!

I said a Pentecost is now!

Blow away the cobwebs of our stubborn past.
Come, send flying from us myths unfit to last.
Wind of change, refresh us and disturb our calm;
teach us what true love is, take our hearts by storm.

Come, come, come, in Jesus' name!

Take our hearts by storm.

All the world lies open: Pentecost is now!

Free us from the babble of our Babel mind;
spark in us a language all can understand.
Lighten then our darkness, come and show us how
all the world lies open: Pentecost is now!

Come, come, come, in Jesus' name!

Take our hearts by storm.

All the world lies open: Pentecost is now!

I said a Pentecost is now!

Amen!

Commissioning and Benediction

Go from this mountaintop into the world.

We will go to travel the valleys of loneliness and heartache.

Go from the presence of God to meet your sisters and brothers.

**We will go to be at their side in every moment,
in every circumstance.**

Get up and go to be God's people.

We are not afraid to be bearers of peace and hope.

Sung Response: VU 886 “Arise, Shine” Refrain Music: Lawrence M. Probes, 1980.

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Arise, be clothed in the light.

Arise, be clothed in the light.

Your light has come.

Your light has come.

Hallelujah.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held TODAY, Sunday, February 15th, following worship.

February is Black History Month: Here from the Beginning is an exhibition about the history of The United Church of Canada from the perspective of Black peoples in the church. The exhibition will be shown at First – St. Andrew’s United Church in London featuring a performance of the London Kids Community Gospel Choir on February 28 at 6 p.m., followed by a reception. (The exhibition will be open at other times yet to be determined between February 25 and March 4. Exact dates and times TBA. Watch the First – St. Andrew’s website for more information)

A Pancake Supper will be held at St. Peter’s Anglican Church on Tuesday, February 17th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. A freewill offering in support of community outreach will be taken.

Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator is a six part video series this Lent exploring food, faith, and the power of invitation, and is hosted by the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath. The series debuts with a Shrove Tuesday pancake feast in the Moderator’s home kitchen on February 17, with a new episode following each Sunday through Lent, concluding with a special Easter message. Videos will be posted on the United Church of Canada’s YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada>

Lenten Study: As we journey toward Lent, the new Lenten devotional [*Bless, Break, Share: Recipes for Faithful Living*](#) invites you to a spiritual practice of reflecting on food and hunger. What do you hunger for? How do you feed others? What feeds your soul? Whether reflecting individually or in a group, this resource helps us discover how every meal provides an opportunity to grow in faith. To deepen your experience, join Rev. Dr. Christine Jerrett for a six-week [online study on CHURCHx](#), on Tuesdays (2:00–3:00 p.m. ET), beginning February 24, focusing on themes of invitation, justice, and solidarity.

Participants receive a 15% discount on the book, with additional bulk savings available for congregational study groups. [Visit the United Church Bookstore to order your copy](#) or head to [CHURCHx to register for the series](#) today!

The World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter’s Anglican Church. All are welcome.

Lectionary Readings:

Wednesday, February 18, 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

Sunday, February 22, First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11