

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

February 19, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

O God of the covenant, the cloud of your splendor and the fire of your love revealed your Son on the mountain heights. Transform our lives in his image, write your law of love on our hearts, and make us prophets of your glory, that we may lead others into your presence. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious"

arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"Psalm 93"

William Owen, 1852

God, the words your lips are telling are the perfect and the true.

In your high eternal dwelling, holiness shall live with you.

Hallelujah! God, your word is ever true.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come to the mountaintop, all God's people; leave all else behind to reach out to the Eternal!

People: How shall we climb the mountain when we cannot walk or reach spiritual heights while weighted down with cares?

Leader: In Christ, God brings the mountaintop to us and meets us, even in the depths of despair.

People: We see a lamp shining in a dark place, and the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

Leader: Pay attention to the signs through which God speaks; for those with discernment, they are everywhere.

People: The dazzling splendor of God's glory is real, even to those who cannot see or hear.

Leader: Let us come without fear or thoughts of favor, opening ourselves to all God has in store for us.

People: Let us worship our Majestic God!

***Hymn**

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

#452

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

Life-giving God, we have found hope, joy, and comfort in the spiritual experiences you have granted us. We confess that sometimes, like Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration, we yearn to hold on to the experiences and confine them to categories we can understand.

Forgive us for failing to see that you transcend our understanding and that your ways are not our ways. Transform us, that we might be shaped to be servants of your word, ambassadors of your love, and sharers of your grace. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

2 Peter 1:16-21

Choir Anthem

“Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing”

Gordon Young, 1956

Now let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer’s praise;
That we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise.
Sing Alleluia!

All ye servants of the Lord, praise him forever,
Sing Jehovah’s might and power, praise him forever.
Sing of his righteousness, praise him forever.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Peaks and Valleys”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith

The Scots Confession (3.12)

Our faith and its assurance do not proceed from flesh and blood, that is to say, from natural powers within us, but are the inspiration of the Holy Ghost; whom we confess to be God, equal with the Father and with his Son, who sanctifies us, and brings us into all truth by his own working, without whom we should remain forever enemies to God and ignorant of his Son, Christ Jesus. For by nature we are so dead, blind, and perverse, that neither can we feel when we are pricked, see the light when it shines, nor assent to the will of God when it is revealed, unless the Spirit of the Lord Jesus quicken that which is dead, remove the darkness from our minds, and bow our stubborn hearts to the obedience of his blessed will. And so, as we confess that God the Father created us when we were not, as his Son our Lord Jesus redeemed us when we were enemies to him, so also do we confess that the Holy Ghost does sanctify and regenerate us, without respect to any merit proceeding from us, be it before or be it after our regeneration. To put this even more plainly; as we willingly disclaim any honor and glory for our own creation and redemption, so do we willingly also for our regeneration and sanctification; for by ourselves we are not capable of thinking one good thought, but he who has begun the work

in us alone continues us in it, to the praise and glory of his undeserved grace.

***Hymn**

“Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”

#193

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (v. 6)

#108

*Prayer of Dedication

The Sending of God’s People

***Closing Hymn**

“Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining”

#192

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response

“We Are the Church”



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!



All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!

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***Postlude**

"O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair"

arr. Charles Callahan

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Cherie Watters

Acolyte: Devin Griggs, Darren Cox

Flowers: The flowers on the altar are given in honor of Anna Morlock's 19th birthday by the Morlock family.

The liturgist for the month of February is Cherie Watters. Cherie & Steve have been residents of London since 1987, and members of the church since about 1998. Cherie is the church office manager. You can find her there Monday – Friday from 8-4:00. Cherie loves nature and animals. Many of you have met Finn, her long-haired German Shepherd. She thoroughly enjoys her grandchildren (the oldest is 18, and the youngest is 2-1/2). In her spare time, Cherie loves to read Nora Roberts and David Baldacci books, and to do research on her family genealogy.

Proverbs 3:27-28

*Do not withhold good from
those to whom it is due,
when it is in your power to do it.*

*Do not say to your neighbor,
"Go, and come again,
tomorrow I will give it"
– when you have it with you.*