



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Transfiguration Sunday

February 14, 2021

9:00am

**“Transformation is a process,
and as life happens there are tons of ups and downs.
It's a journey of discovery—
there are moments on mountaintops and moments in deep valleys of despair.”
—Rick Warre**

“And he was transfigured before them.”

Mark 9:2b

Prelude

Swing Hosanna
Arr. David Marlatt

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 50:1-2

The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Opening Prayer

Great God of dazzling beauty and overshadowing majesty, in Jesus Christ, your beloved, we glimpse the image of your glory. Holy God, in the transfiguration of your Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah; and in the voice from the cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us, with Christ, heirs of your glory, and let your love shine in all we do and say that the world may see the radiant light of God guiding all creation. Teach us to listen to him so that we may hear your voice and follow your holy way. Amen!

Hymn # 404

What Is This Place

Prayer of Confession

Lord of Glory, in Jesus Christ you reveal the full light of your glory; but we look away from him, distracted by our own desires and ambitions. We speak too quickly, and act too rashly, intent only upon achieving our chosen ends. Forgive us for turning away from your holy glory. Grant us the wisdom, and empower us by your Holy Spirit, to live in your light, following in the way of your beloved Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; God's greatness is unsearchable.
The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all, and God's compassion is over all that God has made.
In Jesus Christ, we all are forgiven. Glory be to God! Amen!

Response

Blessing and Honor

**Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb;
Take we the robe and the harp and the palm;
Sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain,
Dying in weakness but rising to reign.**

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

God of Glory, it is good for us to be here. Reveal your Son to us now in the message of the prophets and the witness of the apostles, that we may heed his voice and receive him in faith; to the glory of your name. Amen.

Ministry Updates

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Paul speaks of the glorious "light of the gospel" as he encourages and comforts the church at Corinth.

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Special Music

Blow Out the Trumpet
Joseph M. Martin

Recorded on February 2, 2020

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.**

Giving and Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Raindrop Prelude
Frederic Chopin

Hymn # 193

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

Scripture Reading

Mark 9:2-9

*In certain wonderful, mysterious, mystical moments, God speaks to us, reveals to us,
and we see and hear that which we could never see and hear on our own.*

We call this mysterious gift "revelation." It transforms us forever.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Sermon

"Transforming Identity"

Bob Sheldon

Affirmation of Faith

Confession of 1967

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ. (9.26)

Hymn # 372

O for a World

Blessing

Response

Eight-Fold Amen

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God
Franz Liszt

WHAT HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES

Leading us in worship today are Rev. Bob Sheldon, Interim Pastor; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Sandor Kadar, Director of Music; Kira Boros, Choir Accompanist; Lyndsay Varsaci, soprano; Ron Ford, trumpet; Miner Street Brass.

About Today's Service

The Transfiguration of Jesus is the church's last image before entering into Lent. The Greek word, "*metamorpho*," means to transform—literally and figuratively. It means to change into another form. It also means to change the outside to match the inside. The Transfiguration gives us courage to join the journey of Lent, in the hope that God's power to transform will live and grow in each of us.

Prayer for Today

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts; Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil; Eternal power, be our support; Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance; Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us, that with all our heart and mind and strength we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy to your holy presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. –Alcuin of Tours (c. 735-804)

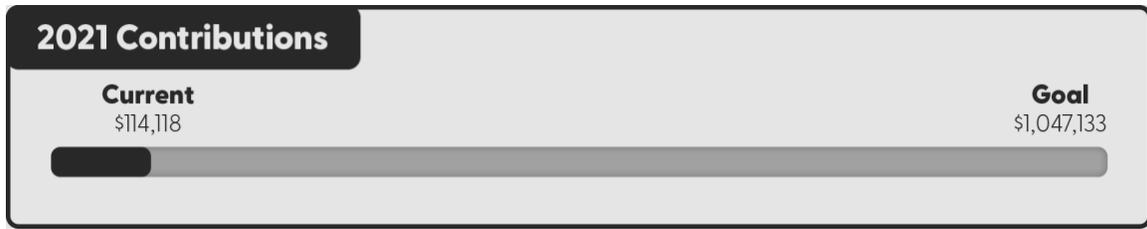
Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, February 17 and there are two ways we're observing the beginning of Lent. There will be a Zoom worship service at 7:00 p.m. Additionally, there will be two times when our pastors will be available for the receiving of ashes. Ashes will be available out front of the church from 12:00-1:00 p.m. and between 5:30-6:30 p.m. Precautions will be taken to ensure this process is safe.

A Note from Stephen Ministry – The challenges of the past year have led all of us to find creative ways to do so many things in our lives. Our Stephen Ministry (SM) team has embraced new ways to support members of our church and community through safe means of connection. Stephen Ministers are church members who are formally trained and committed to sharing the emotional and spiritual burdens of others while helping them process the life-challenges they are facing. With Jesus Christ at the center, SM is founded upon complete confidentiality and faith-filled, listening companionship between a Stephen Minister and a care receiver. If you or a friend would find it helpful to talk with a SM ~ who would focus completely on your concerns on a schedule that fits your needs ~ please contact a SM Referrals Coordinator: Rev. Caroline Cupp (484-459-8220) or Mary Pellack (610-570-0886).

Family Hike – First Pres families will be gathering at Okehocking Preserve on Saturday, February 27 at 10 a.m. for a family hike! Bring your kids, dogs, water bottles and masks, and we'll enjoy being together in the great wintery outdoors. We may need to make a last minute change depending on weather, so please let Sara Pantazes know if you plan to attend.

The **February Anti-Racism Conversation**, in honor of Black History Month, will focus on the black church. We will gather on Zoom on Sunday, February 21 from noon – 1 pm. Participants are invited to do some learning on their own ahead of the conversation. Suggested resources are available at www.firstpreswc.com/racial-justice. Contact Sara Pantazes with any questions.

The **March/April Upper Room books** are ready for pick-up beginning this Wednesday, February 17. They will be available during the times when ashes are being shared on Wednesday and in a box outside the front office door after that. Contact Elizabeth Hess (ehess@firstpreswc.com) with any questions.



The above graph shows the giving amount as of 2/3/2021 compared to the full year goals for contributions so far. This chart will be presented each week to keep the congregation well-informed of our progress. Further details can be found on the Financial Reporting page on our website.