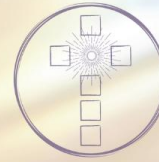


TRANSFIGURATION



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

Transfiguration Sunday

Prelude

Walking with the Master

Gathering—The call of the Holy One has brought us together. We have been called to pray and to praise. We are called to worship and to holy wonder. May the light of Love burn brightly in us. May it transfigure and transform our hearts and minds. May it become a beacon of hope for others.+

****Gathering Song**

Holy Ground (3x), 654

Prayer—God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal. Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for Your alive Word of Love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world.+

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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.

Exploring Together—Gather at the table

We Hear God's Word

Greg Miller

Exodus 34:29-35 (NRSVUE)

²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face, ³⁴ 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, ³⁵ 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.

Luke 9:28-36 (NRSVUE)

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 as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke 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 set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah,” not realizing what he was saying. 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.

Meditation

Transfiguration

Hymn

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding, 245

We Gather at the Table

Set Your Place at the Table—For those worshipping with us at home, please use whatever you have on hand to represent the bread and the cup.

Our Invitation—Come to Christ's table to witness the glory and wonder of God's love in Christ. Come to receive the healing and wholeness you long for and the forgiveness and grace you seek. All are welcome here.

A Prayer for Transformation—Holy God, it has been easy to live with our eyes veiled. Too often, we have hidden from the hard realities within us and around us. We have shielded Your light of Love, instead of sharing it. Something deep within has often hardened our hearts, leading to inertia and unfreedom. But there is a deeper longing within. We hunger for the forgiveness and renewal You revealed in Jesus Christ. Forgive us, Holy One, and unveil our eyes and our hearts. With Your shining love, light a path of forgiveness for us that we may share it with others. By this, we may know the freedom of new life you revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen and amen.+

Assurance of Grace—Hear the good news! Do not lose heart! God is merciful. Bit by bit, we are being transformed into the image of God’s glory made known in Jesus Christ. In our turning, God has forgiven us and unveiled our lives. God has also called us to listen to Jesus Christ, the Beloved, who calls us by the same name. Beloved, may the forgiving light of God’s love shine through us, and bear the hope of a new beginning to others. Thanks be to God! Amen.+

The Words of Institution—We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks..., broke it, and give it to the disciples, saying: “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.`

Blessing Our Meal—Light of the world, in Jesus, You revealed Your will and way. Through his broken body, You broke open our sense of what is possible even in death. Through his lifeblood poured out, You showed that nothing can interrupt Your life-giving pulse at work in all creation. In Christ, You joined all things seen and unseen, kissing the earth with heavenly grace and peace. By this, You revealed resurrection’s resistance to death’s claim as the final word. Instead, Your Word of Love bears an ever-new beginning. Now, pour out Your Spirit anew on these elements and on us that we all may be blessed with Your shining grace, joined with one another, and held in Your holy embrace. In the name of the Christ, we pray. Amen.+

We Share the Bread and the Cup

We Give Thanks—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.`

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation—On the Mount of Transfiguration, the law of love and the prophecy of holy peace joined each other in Jesus as he prayed. God’s generous love bore a radiant flash, kissing earth with heavenly light. So, the heart of God was revealed in Jesus, and a call was extended. It was the call to

listen to Jesus and love generously like him. So we are invited to taste heavenly joy as we generously share the gifts we have received from the One who has born us into life. In this spirit, may we bring our gifts to the one who transfigures everything with love.+

March Benevolence—One Great Hour of Sharing & Our Church’s Wider Mission – This month our benevolence offering will be divided between these two special offerings of the United Church of Christ

****Doxology**

We Give Thanks—O Spirit of Life, shine on us again and again that we may become the blessing you intend. Keep awakening us to Your holy mystery and Your sacred call. Bless these gifts we bring so that Your energy of love may be shared with others and offer the light of a new beginning. By this, and more than we can name, continue to transfigure us and the world. Amen.+

Hymn

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness, 93

Benediction—May the Holy radiance of transfiguration continually light the wick of your life. May it be a light that bears joy and hope and love. May the voice of Jesus enter not only your ears but also your heart. And may that voice shape your voice for the good of the world. Blessings on you all! Amen.+

Postlude

Grand Triumphal Chorus