

March 2 - Transfiguration

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Check In: Talk about a “revelation” moment.

**Acknowledgement of the Land and Commitment to Reconciliation:
Winter by Heather**

Call to Worship

From a cloud, and in a crowd, God speaks to us.

Calling us to be lovers of justice, to share hope with the broken.

On mountaintops, and in neighbourhoods, Christ calls to us.

With thanksgiving, and with wonder, we respond.

So, let us worship

in this space that God is creating,

where all are embraced.

Together we become beloved community.

(Adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Shuman)

Song of Praise: VU# 415 “God, We Praise You For the Morning”

Opening Prayer Reader: Colin

When we wake we look to see the rising Sun.

The fire that burns brilliantly in the morning sky.

Its glow gleams in the growing earth and glistens in sea and sky.

As we gather today

May we embrace the dazzling Son, the Christ.

May his fire burn in our hearts.

May his glow gleam through our actions and glisten in our love for others.

Amen.

—a prayer for Transfiguration Sunday by Alydia Smith

Lighting of Christ Candle

Prayer:

As we light this Christ Candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

Sung Response

Open our hearts, open our minds.

Open our lives to you O Loving God, Open our hearts.

Peace of Christ

Theme Conversation: Doing Hard Things

Children's Song: I Am Walking a Path of Peace

The Story: Luke 9:28-45 Reader:

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 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.

Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon

37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. 38 Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. 39 Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. 40 I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." 41 Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." 42 While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. 43 And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

Jesus Again Foretells His Death

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, 44 "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands." 45 But they did not understand this saying; its meaning remained concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

Song for Reflection: Second hymn – VU# 341 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

Sermon: Leaving the Mountaintop

Offering of Thanksgiving

"People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone." Audrey Hepburn

Anthem – "We Will Walk in the Light"

Offertory Response When Hands Reach Out

When hands reach out and fingers trace

The beauty of a loved one's face,

We thank you, God, that love relies

On gifts of grace not seen with eyes.

Your Spirit gives us differing ways

To serve you well and offer praise.

When all are joined as one, we'll be

Your able, strong community.

Communion hymn: VU# 467 "One Bread, One Body"

Communion Prayer

(Adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Shuman)

May the God of mountaintops be with you!

And also with you!

People of God, lift up your hearts to the One who calls to you.

We open our hearts to the One who invites us to listen.

Beloved of God, offer praise to the One who is with you in this moment.

Our voices unite in thanking our God who loves us.

Overshadowing chaos, you spoke,

Awesome Creator,

and mountains were topped with mist,

singing brooks meandered through fields.

Created in your image, we became distracted,

by our own desires, tempted by power and wealth

that came to us masked as life and joy.

You did not turn your face away,

sending the prophets into all

those ordinary places we lived

to call us back to you.

Though they spoke boldly of your hope,

we did not listen to a single word.

So you sent Jesus, your glory,

to become embodied with us

so we might be reshaped

as your beloved children.

With those in every time and place,

with those gathered here,

at this moment, we sing of our joy to you:

Sanctus VU932

Holy are you, God of every moment,

and blessed is Jesus Christ, your beloved, our saviour.

Having shared in creation with you,

he came to remind us that,

by the gift of resurrection, we cannot destroy

ourselves or anything which you have made.

As we seek to walk in the Light of Christ,
as we would remember his self-giving love and service,
we celebrate your naming him your Chosen,
we prepare to listen to him with our lives,
we speak of that mystery we call faith:

Memorial Acclamation MV207

We who are gathered here and online around your Table,
pour out the blessings of your Spirit,
transforming these simple gifts
into that grace which changes our lives.
As we feed upon the Word
which is broken for us,
we would go forth to speak boldly:
 reading a story to a lonely child,
 advocating for the voiceless,
 telling your good news to those who wander in despair.
As your Cup of peace fills us,
we would go out into the world,
learning that where we do justice
 for the oppressed and rejected,
 we find ourselves in your presence.

So then, when all time comes to an end
and we are gathered in your glory
with our sisters and brothers
around the Feast of Grace and peace,
we will sing your grace forever and ever,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Great Amen MV207

Sending

Go forth now, as lovers of justice, as beloved children of God.

**In cyber clouds, in crowds searching for grace,
we will offer the hope of the One who cares for all.**

Go now, as those who have been with Jesus on the mountaintop of wonder,
to serve in the broken valleys of life.

**With words of life on our lips, with the wonder of laughter in our hearts,
we will follow Jesus to all who seek healing and love.**

Go now, as those who would offer the Spirit's peace to those around us.

**Teaching games of cooperation and not competition to kids,
listening to the lonely whispers of those with whom we work,
we will bring reconciliation to those who are strangers to hope.**

Song for the Journey: VU#481 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Extinguishing of the Candles

Blessing

Closing: Go In Love

Postlude

Beyond Sunday: Lenten Disciplines

Next week we begin the Season of Lent. Lent is traditionally a time of study and reflection. It is a time to do “spring cleaning” for the spirit. You may have heard of giving things up for Lent. That flows from a tradition of fasting as a spiritual discipline. Fasting is meant to focus the mind on things other than the body. Often people will choose a food they love, or they may choose days/meals to skip eating. Sometimes people choose fasts other than food: perhaps abstaining from all social media. Other people may choose to take up a practice during Lent: additional time in prayer, or spiritual reading. It is a very personal decision and depends on your needs.

I have mentioned to a few people that one year I gave up complaining about the weather. It was a hard winter, and I was feeling very down. I felt the negativity was not good for me, so I consciously worked on being positive about other things. I may do this again this year!

Whatever you choose to do, even if it isn't anything as organized as “giving something up for Lent,” I encourage you to spend some time attending to your spiritual needs. Do you need peace? Would cultivating wonder be good for your heart? Is forgiveness or forgiving something that you need to work on?

If you happen to be at the church during Lent check out the table next to my office. Or look for a new table in our sanctuary with candles that can be lit on Sunday morning.

Whatever you do, know that you are beloved of God, a wonder to behold, and precious in God's sight.