

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Open your eyes to the glory of God.
All: **We look for a vision to claim our souls.**
One: We have come to share knowledge of Jesus Christ.
All: **Let us Open our ears to the good news of the gospel.**
Unison: **We gather, seeking transformation and empowerment.**

***OPENING HYMN** “Lead On, O Cloud of Presence” StF 2234 (*Tune 269*)

- 1. Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come,
in wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.**
- 2. Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wand’ring, for by your light we come,
and we are still God’s people. The journey is our home.**
- 3. Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law’s demand.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have seen your glory, O Lord, but falter in following. We have heard your word, but turn away. You promise renewal, but we heed not your wisdom. We bow to the gods of this world, choosing to hide from your truth. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Look tenderly upon us with your grace and forgive us our foolhardiness. Encourage our timid hearts. Strengthen our faith. Restore us, and transform us so that our lives may shine with your glory, beauty, and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The Lord is indeed a God of mercy and compassion. We know this for certain because of Jesus Christ.

All: **In Christ, God seeks the lost and forgives the sinner and loves the world.**

One: So let us hear and believe this wonderful, good news.

All: **That in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ we are loved. Alleluia! Amen!**

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 9:2-9

SCRIPTURE HYMN “Transform Us” StF 2153 *(Tune 347)*

1. **Transform us as you, transfigured,
stood apart on Tabor’s height.
Lead us up our sacred mountains,
search us with revealing light.
Lift us from where we have fallen,
full of questions, filled with fright.**

(continued...)

**2. Transform us as you, transfigured,
once spoke with those holy ones.
We, surrounded by the witness
of those saints whose work is done,
live in this world as your Body,
chosen daughters, chosen sons.**

**3. Transform us as you, transfigured,
would not stay within a shrine.
Keep us from our great temptation –
time and truth we quickly bind.
Lead us down those daily pathways
where our love is not confined.**

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Up the Mountain!” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding” GtG 191 (*Tune 260*)

**1. We have come at Christ’s own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God’s grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.**

**2. Light breaks through our clouds and shadows;
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the law and prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.**

(continued...)

**3. Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.**

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from “*A Declaration of Faith*”)

**The Spirit enabled people of all races, classes, and nations
to accept the good news of what God had done in Christ,
repent of their sins,
and enter the community of faith.
The Christian fellowship was not a society of perfect people.
The struggle between the old way of life and the new was severe.
Yet the Spirit produced among followers of Jesus
love, joy, peace, and victories in the battle against evil.
We testify that today this same Holy Spirit
makes us able to respond in faith to the gospel
and leads us into the Christian community.
The Spirit brings us out of death into life,
out of separation into fellowship.
The Spirit makes us aware of our sinfulness and need,
moves us to abandon our old way of life,
persuades us to trust in Christ and adopt his way.
We believe the Holy Spirit works today
whenever believers grow toward maturity in Christ.
It is not our faith but God's grace in Jesus Christ
that justifies us and reconciles us to God.
Yet it is only by faith that we accept God's grace
and live by it.
As long as we live we struggle with sin,
but the Spirit's presence assures us
God will complete what God has begun in us.**

“A Declaration of Faith” is Copyright 1977, 1991, the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); adopted (1977) “as a contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration, with the clear understanding that” it is not approved as a part of the *Book of Confessions*.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Lord, in your glory and your mercy...
All: ...hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Contemporary)*

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the light of love around us and the fire of faith within us. In gratitude to you, we offer you our all, bringing these offerings as the firstfruits of our commitment to you and your way. Let our lives reflect the One who is the image of your glory: Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory" GtG 190

**1. Swiftly pass the clouds of glory,
heaven's voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish;
Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent,
turning from the summit's rise
downward toward the shadowed valley
where their Lord has fixed his eyes.**

(continued...)

~ 5 ~

2. **Glimpsed and gone the revelation,
they shall gain and keep its truth,
not by building on the mountain
any shrine or sacred booth,
but by following the Savior
through the valley to the cross
and by testing faith's resilience
through betrayal, pain, and loss.**

3. **Lord, transfigure our perception
with the purest light that shines,
and recast our life's intentions
to the shape of your designs,
till we seek no other glory
than what lies past Calvary's hill
and our living and our dying
and our rising by your will.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...
All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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