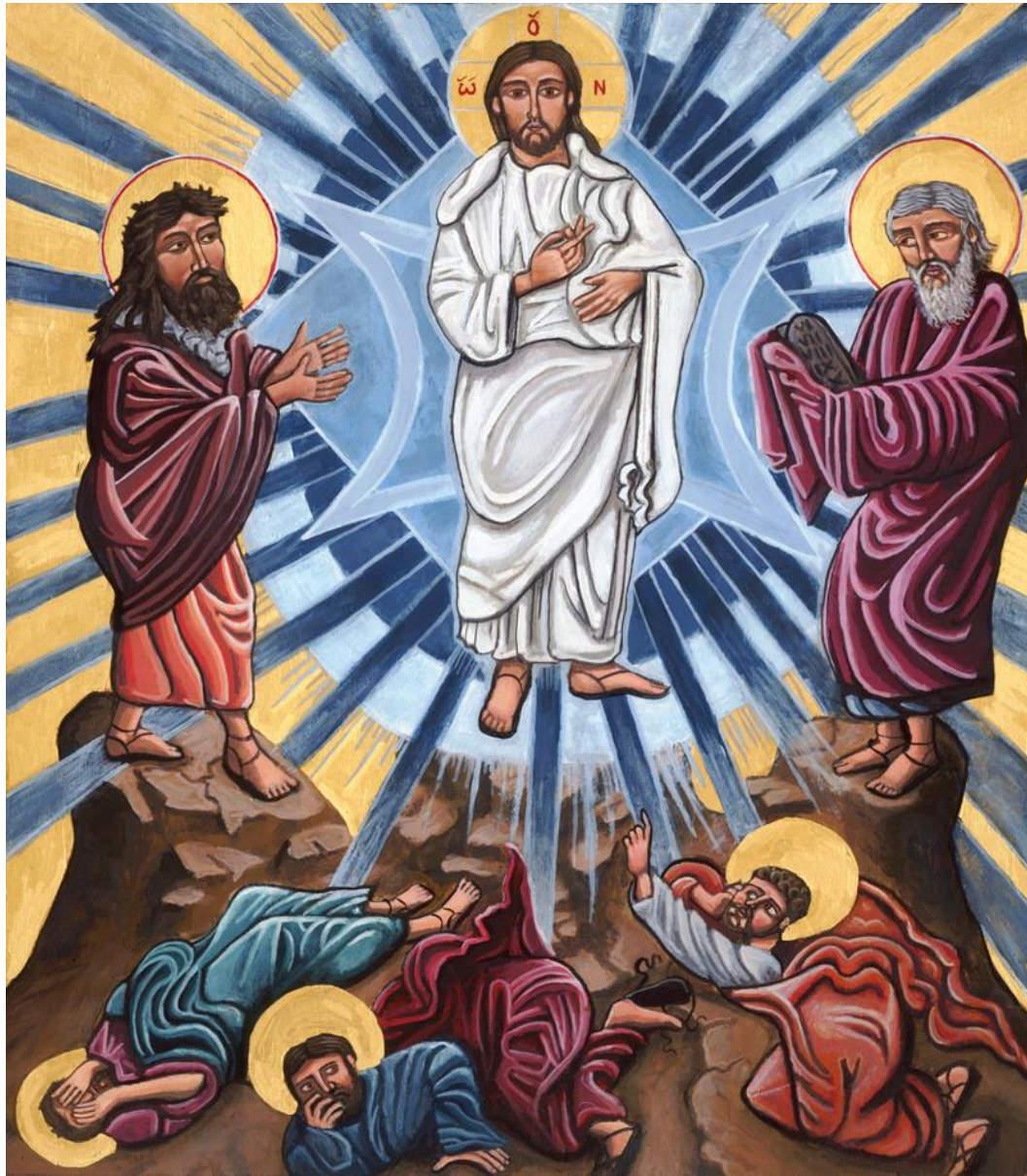


February 14, 2021

Transfiguration of the Lord



Kelly Latimore, Transfiguration, 2014

We are filled with joy at your presence and hope you experience God's Spirit as you worship and meet with those around you. If you would like more information about RPC, please talk with any Session member or the Pastor.

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Bold Letters -- Indicate congregational response

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Litany for Transfiguration of the Lord

Blessed is the Lord our God,
who revealed the law to Moses.

The Lord our God is holy!

Blessed is the Lord our God,
who has spoken through the prophets.

The Lord our God is holy!

Blessed is the Lord our God,
who came to us in Jesus Christ.

The Lord our God is holy!

The one who spoke and called light out of darkness
now shines in our hearts.

The Lord our God is holy!

The one who comes and does not keep silence
now speaks in our midst.

The Lord our God is holy!

Now we have seen the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Lord our God is holy!

Great God of dazzling beauty
and overshadowing majesty,
in Jesus Christ, your beloved,
we glimpse the image of your glory.
Teach us to listen to him
so that we may hear your voice
and follow your holy way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen

Shine, Jesus Shine

**1 God of our life, through all the circling years,
we trust in thee.**

**In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
thy hand we see.**

**With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.**

2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand.

With us abide.

Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land.

Be thou our guide.

**With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.**

**3 God of the coming years, through paths unknown
we follow thee.**

When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone.

Our refuge be.

**Be thou for us in life our daily bread,
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.**

Opening Prayer

O 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 bring us to enjoy its fullness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Call to Confession

Jesus said: Nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not come to light. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

God of compassion,
in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory,
but we turn away, distracted by our own plans.
We confess that we speak when we should listen,
and act when we should wait.
Forgive our aimless enthusiasms.
Grant us wisdom to live in your light
and to follow in the way of your beloved Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

The one who calls light out of darkness now shines in our hearts to reveal the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

Response in Praise

Give Us Light

#467 (v.1)

**1 Give us light;
give us light;
give us light, O Lord.**

THE WORD

A Time with the Children

First Reading

2 Kings 2:1-12

Lay Leader: Mary Ann Eull

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mark 9:2-9

²Six 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, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then 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.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As 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.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Whirlwind and The Light

Unity Hymn

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

#193

**1 Jesus, take us to the mountain,
where, with Peter, James, and John,
we are dazzled by your glory,
light as blinding as the sun.**

**There prepare us for the night
by the vision of that sight.**

**2 What do you want us to see there,
that your close companions saw?
Your divinity revealed there
fills us with the selfsame awe.
Clothed in flesh like ours you go,
matched to meet our deadliest foe.**

**3 What do you want us to hear there,
that your dear disciples heard?
Once again the voice from heaven
says of the Incarnate Word,
"Listen, listen, everyone:
this is my beloved Son."**

**4 Take us to that other mountain
where we see you glorified,
where you shouted "It is finished!"
where for all the world you died.
Hear the stunned centurion:
"Truly this was God's own Son!"**

**5 We who have beheld your glory,
risen and ascended Lord,
cannot help but tell the story,
all that we have seen and heard;
say with Peter, James, and John:
"You are God's beloved Son!"**

Together, We Confess Our Faith

The Apostle's Creed (Traditional)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in
Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,
and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the
dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the
Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the
dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of**

saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

RESPONDING

Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

#606

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O Lord our God, you are great indeed,
clothed in majesty and splendor,
wrapped in light as with a robe.
In the solitude of a mountain height
you revealed your glory in Jesus Christ.
We praise you for this glimpse of the mystery of our redemption.
By his death he conquered death,
and by his rising he gives eternal life.
We praise you for your saving grace.
Transfigure us by your Spirit,
and let your love shine in all we do and say.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the
power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

SENDING

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Sending Hymn *Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet*

#458

Refrain:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid,
and I think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear
as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end. (*Refrain*)

Blessing and Charge

The blessing of the holy, triune God—
who was and is and is to come—
first and last,
beginning and end,
Alpha and Omega—
be with you now and always
Go therefore and make disciples.
The Lord is with you always.
Thanks be to God,
Amen.

Response	<i>Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness</i>	#314
Christ, be our light!		
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.		
Christ, be our light!		
Shine in your church gathered today.		