

Trinity-Grace United Church
February 11th, 2024
6th Sunday After Epiphany
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

READING

"I am the Resurrection and the Life" John 11: 17-26

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

(One/**All**)

This morning we gather in the presence of God who is Love.

The light of Christ is among us.

The spirit of life is in this place.

The Christ Candle is lit

INTROIT: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (VU 400)

1st time - soloist, 2nd time - all

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

OPENING RESPONSES

(One/All)

Through clouds of busyness, uncertainty, joys and fears,
we hear a voice,

**Proclaiming the presence of spirit
in the midst of our living.**

We pause and become mindful.

**We have chosen to be here,
to listen for a holy word for our lives.**

Let us be ready to receive the gifts
the Holy One would offer today.

We come to worship with gratitude and open hearts.

HYMN: "Praise God For This Holy Ground" (MV 42)

1. Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound.

Refrain:

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.*

2. Praise God in whose word we find

food for body, soul and mind.

Refrain

3. Praise God who through Christ makes known all are loved and called God's own.

Refrain

4. Praise God's Spirit who befriends, raises, humbles, breaks and mends.

Refrain

5. Though praise ends, praise is begun where God's will is gladly done.

Refrain

PRAYER FOR RELEASE & RENEWAL

(One/All)

Loving God,

As Jesus radiated divine glory on the mountain,
so, we long to reflect God's glory in our own lives.

You call us to love each other and embrace differences
but we confess that we find it difficult to see
the holy belovedness of those who do not look like us,
share our religion, or our values.

We silently participate in unequal systems that are structured
to negatively impact some groups of people, and benefit others.

We can find it difficult to see and value ourselves,

**when we are carrying burdens of mistakes,
of things done or left undone.**

Holy One, ground of our being,
on this day the we celebrate Christ's transfiguration,
we admit that we need to see anew.

**Transfigure our minds and help us to see
into the deeper essence and sacredness
of our lives, and the lives of our neighbours.**

(Silence is held)

A WORD OF GRACE

Leader:

Christ, our resurrection and our life, is with us.
The God we sense in those thin places and moments of our lives
is the shining One, the flame burning within,
the beacon on the horizon, the radiance in all creation;
the bright idea apprehending us;
and the sparkling in the eyes of our loved ones;
the uncreated light that is lighting all.

As we take hold of the grace we are offered,
May our burdens be transfigured
as we open to the radiance and renewing love of Christ
in ourselves and in each other.

SHARING PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And also with you!

We take a moment to greet each other and share a sign of peace.

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

One:

Eternal God,
May the words of the Scriptures transform our minds,
may the work of your Spirit transform our hearts,
and may the glory of your presence transform our lives
In the name of the incarnate Christ.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gospel of Mark 9:2-9

The Transfiguration

2 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, **3** and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them.

4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

5 Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” **6** He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” **8** Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

9 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. **10** So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

One: This is the record of our ancestors in faith.

All: May their witness reveal God's word for us today.

EXPLORING THE WORD

Message: "The Glory Within"

- Rev. Sandra Nixon

RESPONDING

HYMN: "I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say" (VU 626)

During the hymn, the offering box is brought forward

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
 your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
 weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
 and he has made me glad.

- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
 stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
 of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 and now I live in him.

- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
 and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
 in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk

till travelling days are done.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Trinity-Grace is grateful for the many ways we are gifted and called to contribute to God's mission through this faith community.

Prayer of Dedication

(Leader)

God of life and love,
we are grateful for the ministry you give us
in and through this community of faith.
We offer our gifts to you in love,
trusting that you will transfigure them into
tangible expressions of your healing and reconciling love
at work in the world.

In Christ's name we pray

Amen.

CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY

We share announcements, insights, joys & concerns.

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE & CONCERN (The Prayers of the People)

Periods of silence will be left for you to offer your own prayers

THE PRAYER OF THE DISCIPLES (The Lord's Prayer)

(One/All)

God, our Divine Parent,
who fills and sustains the Cosmos,
may your name be praised;

**May the values, priorities, and purposes of your reign
shape our lives and relationships
in this world.**

Compassionate God,
who cares for all,
please care for our needs;

**And may each soul and circumstance know your
care, your provision,
and your saving love.**

Gracious God,
who grieves our experience of alienation and sin,
forgive the wrongs we've done

**And when we are wronged,
teach us to follow your example of grace,
and to forgive as we have been forgiven.**

Restoring God,
who renews and recreates all things,
save us when we face - or participate in -
that which is evil and destructive,

**For to you belongs the sovereignty of all
through the power and glory of love
now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN: "God of the Bible" (MV 28)

1. God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.

Refrain:

*Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.*

2. God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.
Refrain

3. Those without status, those who are nothing,
you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.
Refrain

4. Not by your finger, not by your anger
will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.
Refrain

5. Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other,
'til our world changes facing the Cross.
Refrain

COMMISSIONING

AMEN: "Go Now in Peace" (VU 964)

1st time: All | 2nd & 3rd times - Round

*Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.*

POSTLUDE