



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship February 19, 2023 9:30am  
Transfiguration Sunday

### Gathering

PRELUDE

Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME

Rev. Mitch Trigger

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In his farewell to his congregation, Peter told his people that  
as long as he was alive he'd keep reminding them of the stories of Jesus:

**ALL: "For he received honor and glory from God when  
that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying,  
'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'"**

ONE: Let us tell each other the stories of Jesus again today  
as we worship in joy and hope.

**ALL: It is good for us to be here.**

\*HYMN 191

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

BREWER

# We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding 191



1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and  
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows; splen - dor bathes the  
 3 Strength - ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our



ho - ly place, where we wait with hope and long - ing  
 flesh - joined Word; Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel  
 faith de - cline, we like Pe - ter find it tempt - ing



for some to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -  
 as the heav - en - ly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with  
 to re - main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us



sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, search - ing like those  
 won - der how the law and proph - ets meet: Christ, with gar - ments  
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, that our dai - ly



first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.  
 drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.  
 lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Through this Transfiguration hymn runs an implicit comparison between the attitudes and assumptions of the three disciples on that mountain and the expectations of present-day Christians as they gather for worship. This event is reported in Matthew 17:1-9/Mark 9:2-9/Luke 9:28-36.

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Merciful God, even when we see your justice transfigured before us, we cringe in fear of following your way in our world. We wonder what it might cost us to walk in the way of Jesus. Help us to listen. Empower us to be formed by the life of Jesus Christ. Restore in us the confidence to be disciples of Christ. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you and all others!**

\*HYMN 607

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

## Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 24:12–18 (NRSVUE)

Kathy Bures

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there. I’ll give you the stone tablets with the instructions and the commandments that I’ve written in order to teach them.” So Moses and his assistant Joshua got up, and Moses went up God’s mountain. Moses had said to the elders, “Wait for us here until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur will be here with you. Whoever has a legal dispute may go to them.” Then Moses went up the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The LORD’s glorious presence settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from the cloud. To the Israelites, the LORD’s glorious presence looked like a blazing fire on top of the mountain. Moses entered the cloud and went up the mountain. Moses stayed on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Anthem

“Shine On Us”  
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

by Michael W. & Deborah Smith  
arr. Bruce Greer

*Lord, let the light of your face shine on us. Lord, let the grace from your hand fall on us.  
That we may be saved, that we may have life. To find our way in the darkest night.  
Lord, let your love with no end, come over us. Let your love come over us.  
Let your grace fall on us. Let your light shine on us. Shine on us, O Lord.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 17:1–9 (NRSVUE)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“With Eyes Wide Open”

Rev. Mitch Trigger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

Linda Dover, organist

Sending

\*HYMN 193


“Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”

UNSER HERRSCHER



(Stanzas 1-3, 5)

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE



# 193 Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain





1 Je - sus, take us to the moun - tain, where, with Pe - ter,  
2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com -  
3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis -  
4 Take us to that oth - er moun - tain where we see you  
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as -




James, and John, we are daz - zled by your glo - ry,  
pan - ions saw? Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there  
ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the voice from heav - en  
glo - ri - fied, where you shout - ed "It is fin - ished!"  
cend - ed Lord, can - not help but tell the sto - ry,



light as blind - ing as the sun. There pre - pare us  
fills us with the self - same awe. Clothed in flesh like  
says of the In - car - nate Word, "Lis - ten, lis - ten,  
where for all the world you died. Hear the stunned cen -  
all that we have seen and heard; say with Pe - ter,



for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.  
ours you go, matched to meet our dead - liest foe.  
ev - ery - one: this is my be - lov - ed Son."  
tur - i - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"  
James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"



Some version of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–9/Mark 9:2–9/Luke 9:28–36) is always read on the last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this text that foretaste of Christ's glorification helps to prepare Peter, James, and John for their roles as proclaimers of "God's beloved Son."

TEXT: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991

MUSIC: Joachim Neander, 1680; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863, alt.  
Text © 1991 Concordia Publishing House

UNSER HERRSCHER  
8.7.8.7.7.7

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Linda Dover, organist

## GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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