GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Service of Worship February 14, 2021 10:00am
Transfiguration Sunday after Epiphany

Gathering

PRELUDE
“Though I May Speak”
arr. Emma Lou Diemer
Linda Dover, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP
Holy One, we come before you, many of us feeling like we have climbed just a part of the mountain, and there is so much more of a climb left to even get to point, to dream that we might be dazzled by what is Divine.

Our loads are heavy, with worry, with regret, with fatigue, with illness, with despair for all in the world that is hurting, in danger, in bondage and more. We trudge ahead, following you, stumbling, hoping, praying... breathing hard, hearts pounding, and yes, even some of us are nimble and skipping.

Lead us Lord, to the top of that mountain, where we might be dazzled by your Light, lifted by what is Divine, filled by the sheer delight of what is numinous and ethereal and grounded and real.

We pray this, for ourselves, for one another, and for the worlds in which we live in. We pray this as we come to worship you, Lead us Lord, to the top of the mountain.
HYMN 406

"We Are Standing On Holy Ground"
(1 x– Rev. Sue Trigger, 2nd time – All)

GATHERING

406 We Are Standing on Holy Ground

We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

The phrase “holy ground” resonates with the experience of Moses at the burning bush, where he had an encounter with God (Exodus 3:5; also quoted in the martyr Stephen’s sermon, Acts 7:33). The reference to angels may recall Jacob’s vision (Genesis 28:12–17) or Hebrews 12:22.

TEXT and MUSIC: Geron Davis, 1983

Irregular

Text and Music © 1983 Songchannel Music Company and Meadovgreen Music Company
(admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)
PRAYER FOR TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY *(video)*

Lord, our lives began as a pile of ash and you made us light for the world.
We were made of stone, and you made us salt for the earth.
We were as lifeless as clay and you made us part of the Body of Christ.
We were sinful and you made us holy.
We were nothing and you made us part of everything.

Lord, in you we are transformed and transformed still again.
When the discouraged cry for hope, make us hope.
When the hungry cry for bread, make us bread.
When the thirsty cry for water, make us water.
When the suffering cry for help, make us help.
When the sick cry for healing, make us healing.
When the bound cry for freedom, make us freedom.
When the outcasts cry for love, make us love.

Lord who is hope, who is bread and water, who is help and healing, who is freedom, and who is love, transform us anew, and keep us close to you, as you transform the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One:  May the peace of Christ be with you.
All:  And also with you and all others!
1 Swiftly pass the clouds of glory, heaven’s voice, the dazzling light; Moses and Elijah vanish;
  Glimpsed and gone the revelation, they keep its truth, not by building on the mountain
  Lord, transfigure our perception with the purest light that shines, and recast our life’s intentions

2 Christ alone commands the height! Peter, James, and John fall silent, turning from the summit’s rise downward
  any shrine or sacred booth, but by following the Savior through the valley to the cross and by other glory than what lies past Calvary’s hill and our

3 toward the shadowed valley where their Lord has fixed his eyes. testing faith’s resilience through betrayal, pain, and loss.
  living and our dying and our rising by your will.
The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

ANTHEM
“High Upon a Mountain”
Miles McDonald, alto sax
Trey Bures, double bass – Daniel Cole, djembe
Chancel Singers III
Lauren Bond, Karen Kesler, Susan Sutherland, Laura Farris, Susan Hayden
David Sutherland, Linda Bruns, Paul Bruns, & Bob Dover
High upon a mountain, in a quiet place, they were prayin’.
Peter, James, and John with Jesus in that place, they were prayin’.
When there came forth from the face of Jesus a brilliant light gleaming like the sun.
   His raiment all aglow, and white as the whitest snow with radiance brightly shining.
   Then appeared Elijah, with Moses at his side, speaking to Jesus of the coming days;
   speaking of Jerus’lem and of great sorrow; speaking of destiny.
   High upon a mountain Peter, James, and John heard the pow’r of Christ proclaimed:
      “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”
   High upon a mountain, in a quiet place, they were prayin’.
   Peter, James, and John with Jesus in that place, they were prayin’.

SERMON
“Who is On the Mountain?”
Rev. Sue Trigger

Sending

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining
Shine, Jesus, Shine

1 Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now in your radiance; Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now

2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadow in your likeness; by the blood I may face display your likeness, ever changing from

3 As we gaze on your kindly brightness, so our facets display your likeness, ever changing from

(C) (G) (D) (C) (D) (G)
D A E D E

world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now enter your brightness. Search me; try me; consume all my glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your

(Bm7) (Em7) (C) (D) (Bm7)
f#m7 Cm7 F#m7 D E C#m7

bring us. Shine on me; shine on me. dark ness. Shine on me; shine on me. story. Shine on me; shine on me.

(Em7) (F) (Dsus)(D) (F) (Dsus)(D)
F#m7 G Esus E G Esus E

Refrain (G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am7) (C) (D7) (C) (D)
A E f#m D A Bm7 D E7 D E

Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father’s glory.

While the reference to Jesus as the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) can be understood generally, this hymn is perhaps best understood as a response to the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–8/Mark 9:2–8/Luke 9:28–36). This is the most popular of the author/composer’s many songs.

TEXT and MUSIC: Graham Kendrick, 1987

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
Linda Dover, organ

arr. Julie Morgan

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

(JESUS CHRIST: LIFE)

Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Some music is reprinted by permission of CCLI 1154643 and OneLicense A-705105.
Our Church Streaming & Podcast Licenses are CSPL 048834 through CCLI & included in OneLicense A-705105.
Any videos are shown by permission of CVLI #504087502.