



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship March 2, 2025 9:30am
Transfiguration Sunday

Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

PRELUDE

“Morning Has Broken”
Charter Ringers

arr. Ariel Quintana

*In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a
contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.*

WELCOME /ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

written by Rev. Rob Smith

ONE: Beyond our busyness, above the cold winter floor there is a glory rising
born of heaven and reaching out to each one of us

**ALL: A light that shines through the clouds, an invitation seeking all of who
we are that transfigures the world**

ONE: That transforms darkness into hope, that brings life from a cross where
old life ends and new life is born.

**ALL: In glory Jesus meets us here raising us from depths of valley to the
height of the mountain, carrying the weight of our humanity to the
heights of heavens glory. Let us worship from the mountain and hear
again, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”**

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

190 Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

Capo 3: (Dm) Fm (Gm) B^bm (A7) C7 (Dm) Fm

1 Swift - ly pass the clouds of glo - ry, heav - en's voice, the
 2 Glimpsed and gone the rev - e - la - tion, they shall gain and
 3 Lord, trans-fig - ure our per - cep - tion with the pur - est

(Gm) B^bm (A7) C7 (Dm) Fm (Gm) B^bm (A7) C7

daz - zling light; Mo - ses and E - li - jah van - ish;
 keep its truth, not by build - ing on the moun - tain
 light that shines, and re - cast our life's in - ten - tions

(Dm) Fm (A7) C7 (Dm) Fm (D) F (Bm) Dm

Christ a - lone com - mands the height! Pe - ter, James, and
 an - y shrine or sa - cred booth, but by fol - low -
 to the shape of your de - signs, till we seek no

(Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F (Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F

John fall si - lent, turn - ing from the sum - mit's rise down - ward
 ing the Sav - ior through the val - ley to the cross and by
 oth - er glo - ry than what lies past Cal - vary's hill and our

(Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F (Bm) Dm (D) F (A7) C7 (D) F

toward the shad - owed val - ley where their Lord has fixed his eyes.
 test - ing faith's re - sil - ience through be - tray - al, pain, and loss.
 liv - ing and our dy - ing and our ris - ing by your will.

The first two stanzas of this 20th-century Transfiguration hymn guide singers through a contemplation of the disciples' experience of that event. The final stanza becomes a corporate prayer for enlightenment and for a renewed sense of commitment to doing God's will.

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.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

In the cloud of your splendor O God, you revealed your Son on the mountain heights. Open our eyes to your glory and fill us with your love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

God of Mercy and Grace, you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us: Yet, we maintain walls that separate and isolate. You give us the ministry of reconciliation: Yet, we nurse our wounds and withhold mercy and forgiveness.

You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John on the mountain of Transfiguration: Yet, we deny the wonders you have worked in our own lives. You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth: Yet, we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us. You bless our lives with boundless love: Yet, we fail to witness to that love, and so keep others from knowing you.

Forgive our selfishness, we pray. Transform us by your Spirit and your Word into that which pleases you, the image of Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus admonished Peter, James, and John not to tell of what they witnessed on the mountain until he was resurrected. But we can tell what we have seen and heard of God's glory! Here is the good news: Jesus lives! He is raised! We are forgiven! Go, share the vision! Tell of God's love! In this God is well pleased!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

*HYMN 12

"Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 34:29–35 (NRSVUE)

Harold Frye

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face, but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out, and when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining, and Moses would put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with him.

ANTHEM

"Give Glory All Creation"

by Donna Butler Douglas

Celebration & CHEX

Pam Smith Kelly & Carrie DeVries, directors

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 9:28–36

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and, in those days, told no one any of the things they had seen.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Down from the Mountain Top"

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Meditation”

by Patricia Bucheimer

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving and The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup – *partake of the bread first and then drink as instructed.*

Music During Communion

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

arr. Austin Lovelace

Prayer After Communion

Sending

*HYMN 193

“Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”

UNSER HERRSCHER

193 Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

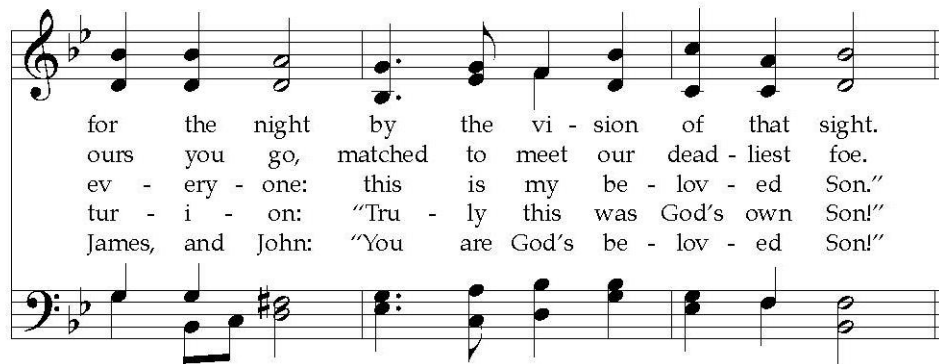
1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain, where, with Pe - ter,
 2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com -
 3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis -
 4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain where we see you
 5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as -

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,

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."

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE



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!"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

"Jesus Shall Reign"
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Gerhard Krapf

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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Celebration! Choir

Eloise Armbrecht, Eloise Dixon, Abel Frye, Kamden Frye, Charlotte Hearn, Mallory Hearn,
Aidan Hussey, Liam Hussey, Evie Schmidt, James Schmidt, Magnolia Sellers, Max Soule,
Grant Stromberg, Nolan Tamke, Lucas Wright, Sarah Wright

Pam Smith Kelly, director; Angela Krug, accompanist
Katie Hearn and Keith Langabee, assistants

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11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gcpc.org