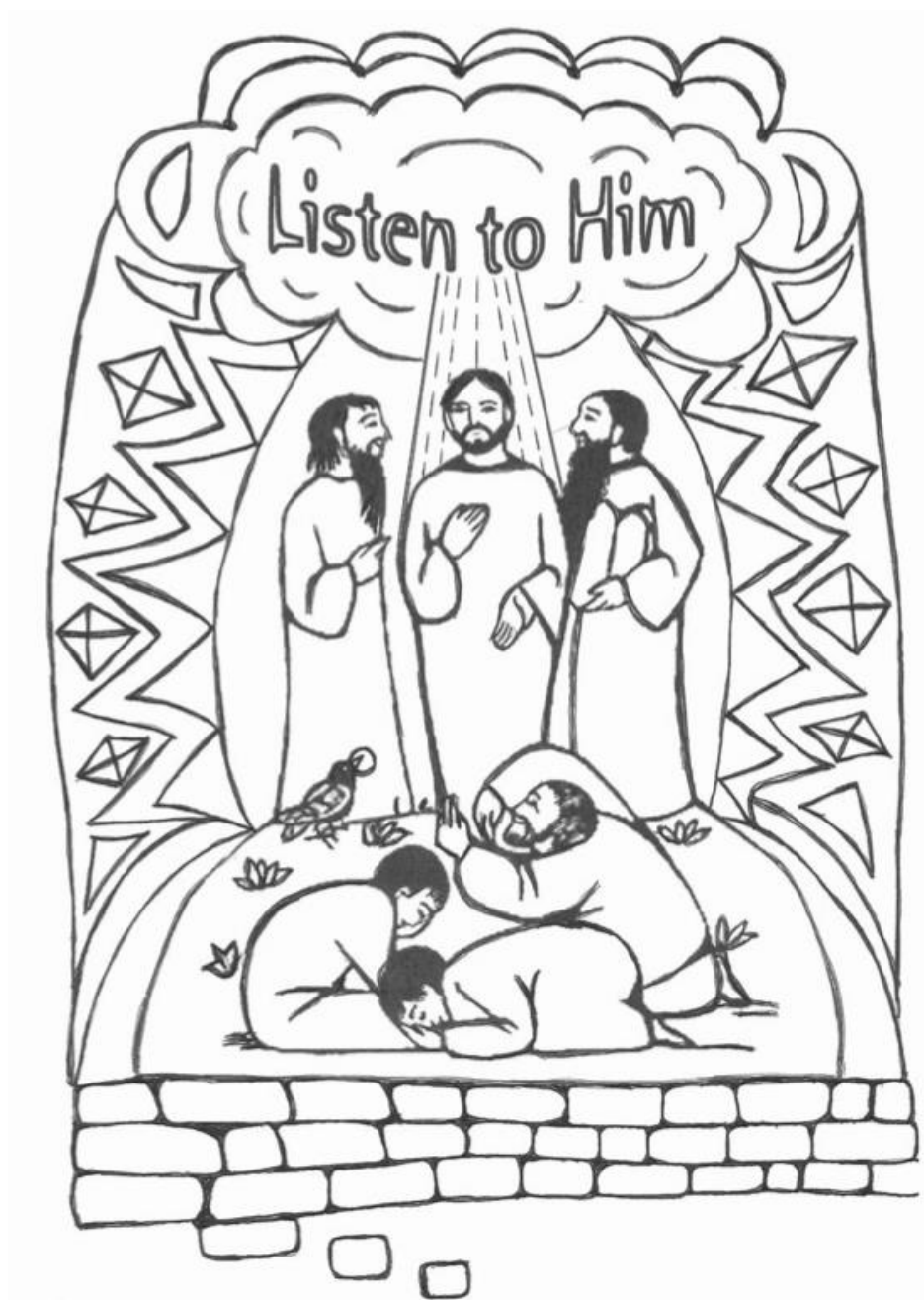


THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

February 19th, 2023



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager: Karen McCumber business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTi9c_OIBbMqGwLw

Prayer: O Lord, keep Your family and Church continually in the true faith that they who lean on the hope of Your heavenly grace may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Luke 13: 31-35 Wednesday: 1 John 1: 5-9 Friday: Isa. 8: 5-12
Tuesday: Luke 9: 18-23 Thursday: Luke 9: 57b-62 Saturday: Mark 9: 14-29

Musician: 10 a.m. – Louise Gondosch **Ash Wednesday:** Carole Pink
Reader: 10 a.m. – Paul Wachs Lorraine Kaija
Greeter: 10 a.m. – George & Gail Julie

February Worship Schedule 2023

Sunday, Feb. 19: Transfiguration: Gospel Melodies Service of the Word
Wednesday, Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday Simple Communion with Imposition of Ashes
Sunday, Feb. 26: Lent 1: Divine Service Setting 1 [without Communion]

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Today: **NO** Sunday School or Confirmation Class today
3- 5:00 p.m. - Baby Shower for Daniela Cruz in church basement
Monday: 10-11:00 a.m. – Luther Manor Bible Study
7:30 p.m. - Choir Practice
Tuesday: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. – Precious Moments
7:00 p.m. – Mary Martha (see note below)
Ash Wednesday: 6:00 p.m. – Praise and Pizza Lenten Dinner
7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Simple Communion with Imposition of Ashes
Thursday: 10 -11:30 a.m. – SOUL
7 – 9:00 p.m. – Youth Fun Night

BABY SHOWER - SUNDAY, FEB. 19, 3:00 – 5:00 pm: Here at the church, In honour of Daniela Cruz and Eduardo Farias. Eduardo is a MTS student at CLTS and an adopted student of the Mary Martha, which means that our LWML group supports them financially. They are also very talented musicians you have probably heard about. The baby is due in March and it is a girl. We would like to invite all of the ladies from the congregation to join us, everyone is welcome!. One of the things on Daniela's list was a crib and the Mary Maratha has purchased one, so you may contribute to that (just give a donation to Ivy) or buy a small gift of your own to bring. Since it is their 1st baby they pretty much need everything. Please contact Lorraine Kaija if you think you might attend, (or one of the executive – Wendy H, Sue H, Ivy, Kathy or Carole) so we can plan numbers. If you would like to contribute to the appetizers for the afternoon, speak to Carole.

PRECIOUS MOMENTS: If you or someone you know would benefit from friendly conversation, a time for kids to play & sing; hear a Bible story and make a craft - please join us Tuesdays in the nursery area from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Coffee and tea are always on.

MARY MARTHA: *The following is our Mary Martha Schedule for our Winter/Spring program:*

Feb 21st -- Speaker from the Mobile Closet

Our guest speaker will be Amy Whittaker, Program Manager. The Mobile Closet provides a free mobile shopping experience with each person choosing their own attire.

At the moment **there is an "urgent need of the following items:**

- **Men's pants (track pants and jeans)**
- **Men's Jackets**
- **Men's underwear (New)**
- **Women's Deodorant**
- **Blankets**

If you are cleaning out your closet and find any of the above items in good condition, we would welcome them in time for our meeting on February 21. *(Bring them in by Sunday, February 19th and leave them by the coat racks in the narthex.)* Thank you in advance!

- March 21: Quilt tying and stamp trimming
- April 18: Speaker-Jude Mersereau
- May 16: Bible Study--Pastor Todd (tentative)
- June 10: Potluck

Please feel free to attend any, or all, of our Tuesday night events!
(If you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

CONFIRMAND/YOUTH FUN NIGHT: Join us at the church on **Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** for fun, games, singing with the band, a devotion & snacks. Bring your calendars so we can plan our next few events!



From the desk of Pastor Todd

MARCH 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- March 5 – Lent 2 -- Scripture & Song Service [Worship/Praise band]
[Daylight savings] March 12 – Lent 3 -- LSB DS Setting 3 Communion
- March 19 – Lent 4 – Creative Morning Praise
- March 26 – Lent 5 – LSB DS setting 1 Communion

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Mark your calendars for VBS. **In-person VBS** is being planned this summer, **Monday, July 17 - Friday, July 21.** The program will run in the morning with an afternoon extended care for Grade 1-6. More information will be coming.

<u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u>	<u>February 12th, 2023</u>	<u>Attn: 10 a.m. – 82</u>	<u>SOUL: No Soul</u>
<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
			<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current:		1,589.25	26,475.18
LCC Missions		150.00	1,672.00
Property Improvement:		114.00	818.00

MEMORIAL DONATIONS have been given to the HLMS Feeding Program in memory of Lorraine Bogusat by Don & Lois Fretz, Brandon & Amy Kemp, John & Erna Mewhinney and Tom & Kathy Kuhl; to HLMS Feeding Program in memory of Catherine Copp McBride by Don & Lois Fretz; and to HLMS Feeding Program in memory of Rev. Frank Silver by John & Erna Mewhinney.

2022 DONATION RECEIPTS: Please check your mailbox for your 2022 Donation Tax Receipt. Please help us keep mailing costs down by picking up yours by February 26, any not picked up by then will be mailed. If you can pick up for a family member that will not be able to before that date, that would be appreciated.

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED JOINING THE CHOIR? Do you like to sing? We could always use more voices and would give you a hearty welcome. We will be starting up practices again on February 6th and continuing as we do, each Monday evening from 7:30 – 9 pm approximately. We look now towards the Lenten season beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22) and taking us into Holy Week in April. Speak to Carole if you might be interested.

GREETERS: A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board and we would ask that anyone who is interested in assisting for the coming year to please sign up. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know everyone in the congregation.

Review and Renew
Back to the Basics

What We Believe & Why It Matters
Lenten Focus 2023
Wednesdays Feb 22 - March 29 7-8 PM

- 1) Ash Wednesday Simple Communion & ashes - Purposeful praying or praying with purpose? [Lord's Prayer focus]
- 2) What does "Living Word" mean [10 Commandments focus]
- 3) What happens when I follow God's lead ! [the Apostles' Creed focus]
- 4) Little Christ, little me [Baptism focus]
- 5) How our hearts and mouths align [Confession and Forgiveness focus]
- 6) You are what you eat [Holy Communion focus]

Midweek Lent will have hymns, prayer, Scripture and a Bible Study format message with discussion question time.
We meet in the Church Sanctuary.

Holy Week & Easter will be the usual worship services

Lenten Study Material will be available, before Ash Wednesday, for all who wish to join.

Ash Wednesday will be a regular church service with Communion and imposition of ashes.

"**Review & Renew**" is a Bible Study which will be conducted by Pastor Todd in the church sanctuary the remaining Wednesdays of Lent

Holy Week will be regular church services.

Join the Fellowship Committee for a "**FREE DINNER**" every Wednesday of Lent, at 6:00 p.m. before the "**Review & Renew**" Bible Study



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Wednesday, February 22: | Praise and Pizza |
| Wednesday, March 1: | Chili at Church |
| Wednesday, March 8: | Praise and Pizza |
| Wednesday, March 15: | Soup & Salvation |
| Wednesday, March 22: | Praise and Pizza |
| Wednesday, March 29: | Praise and Pasta |





FAMILY SUPPER & BUNCO NIGHT

(BUNCO is a fun game enjoyed by ages 3-103)

Whether you are a family of 1 or 10
we hope you will join us!

Saturday, February 25, 4:00 p.m.

Meal, Salad and Drinks will be provided!
Please bring a dessert to share!!

Sign up sheet in the Narthex!



MUSIC TRIVIA & DINNER

The Fellowship Committee is reserving a few tables for an evening of:

NAME THAT TUNE!!

Saturday, March 11th

Port Dalhousie Yacht Club, 74 Lighthouse Rd.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Pub Food Buffet at 6:00 p.m.

Game Begins at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets \$25 plus HST = \$28.25

Sign up in the Narthex if you are interested in a fun evening of "Music Trivia" and "Fellowship".
Once we have committed numbers, the Fellowship Committee will purchase and distribute the tickets.
Any questions contact Tim, Judy or Marge

What does Cheez Whiz have to do with downtown's St. George's Anglican Church?

Cheez Whiz sandwiches are just one of the breakfast options that are being served at St. George's every day, **365 days a year**, for over 25 years. Each morning a team of 6-8 volunteers arrives at 6:30 a.m. to make porridge, coffee, sandwiches and cereal for the many in our community who are unable to provide themselves with a nutritious breakfast.

These volunteers are not just members of St. George's. They manage the program but depend on many others from the community to help with the day-to-day preparation, as well as donations from many in order to feed the hungry. Christ Lutheran Church has agreed to help by making February "Cheez Whiz" month. We will be collecting donations of jars of CheezWhiz (**LARGE SIZE PLEASE, +900g.**) to contribute to the pantry there. There will be a box in the narthex, starting next week, where you can place your donation.

If you prefer to donate \$20 or more and receive a tax receipt, place a cheque made out to St. George's Anglican Church in a separate envelope, and label it "for Breakfast Program", and put it in the offering plate. Make sure your name and address are included in order to get a tax receipt. The cheques will be taken to St. George's when the jars of CheezWhiz are delivered. You can also donate directly on their website: stgeorgesanglican.ca Click on "Contact" at top right and then go to bottom of screen where it says "Donate Now". Click on "Breakfast Program" where it says FUND and mention you are from Christ Lutheran Church in the message box.

Perhaps you want to help make and serve breakfast too. With as little a commitment as one morning a month to serving as a mentor once a week, there is a place for more help. If you might be interested in volunteering, **Speak to Wendy Kuenzel (289-990-4236) to get contact info.**

GOSPEL TUNES SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 19, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

GOD WELCOMES US

BEGINNING SONG:

"Majesty"

J. Hayford © 1981

Majesty! Worship His majesty!
Unto Jesus be all glory, honour and praise.
Majesty! Kingdom authority,
Flow from His throne
Unto His own, His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high, the name of Jesus--
Magnify, come glorify -- Christ Jesus the King!
Majesty! Worship His majesty,
Jesus who died -- now glorified -- King of all kings.
So exalt, lift up on high, the name of Jesus--
Magnify, come glorify -- Christ Jesus the King!
Majesty! Worship His majesty,
Jesus who died -- now glorified -- King of all kings.

CCLI Song # 1527 --Jack Hayford © 1981 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)
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CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our God expresses graciously in His Word: whoever hides their sins will not do well;

But all who confess and turn away from them will experience mercy. [Prov. 28:13]

[Brief silence for prayerful reflection]

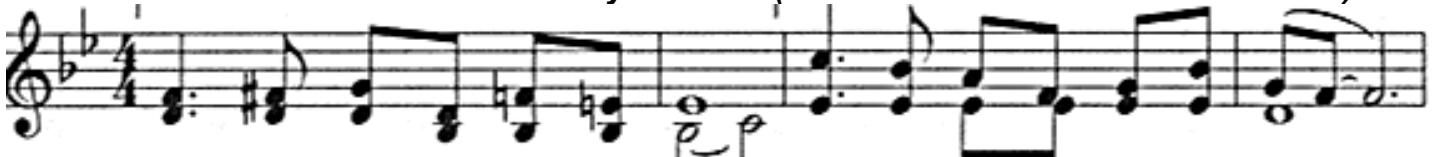
God of grace, love and communion:

We confess that we have failed to love You with our whole heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. We ignore Your commandments, stray from Your ways, and follow other 'gods', whom we have believed will give us happiness. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins and raise us up to new life, to a wise and good and true life full of Your grace, that we may serve You faithfully and give honour to Your holy Name. Amen.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for You and for His sake, forgives you all of your sins. To all who believe in Christ, He comes to live in them, so that all may have life in His name. So in the place of Christ and by His Holy Word, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SUNG KYRIE: "To The Lord We Pray"

(Tune: "Just a closer walk with Thee")



1. To the Lord we pray for peace, for the peace sent from above,
2. Lord, have mercy up-on us; Christ, have mercy up-on us,



For the hope of this our world, for the church, please bless with Your love:
Lord, have mer-cy up-on us, give us peace, O Lord, give us peace.

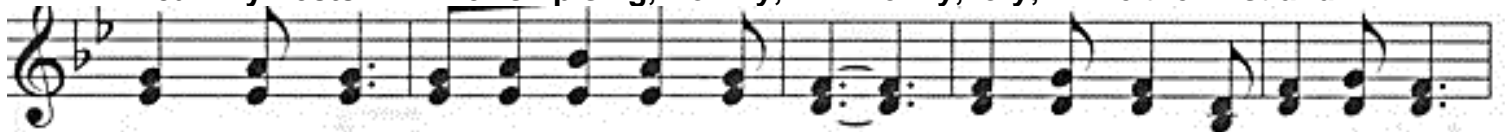
HYMN OF PRAISE:

"Praise To The Lamb"

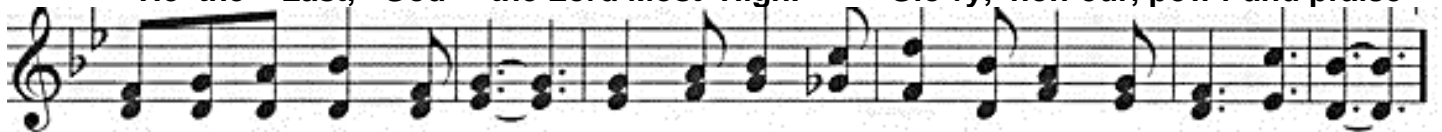
Revelations 5 & 19



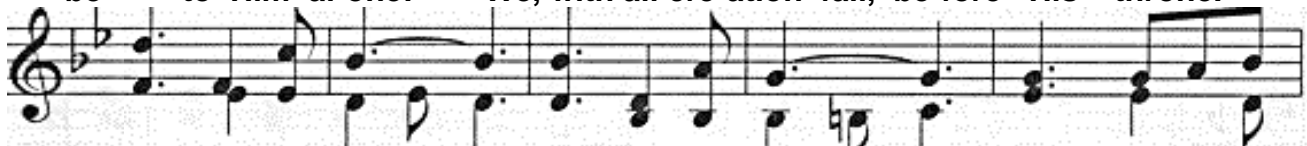
Heav'nly hosts in wor-ship sing, Ho -- ly,-- Ho - ly, cry; He the First and



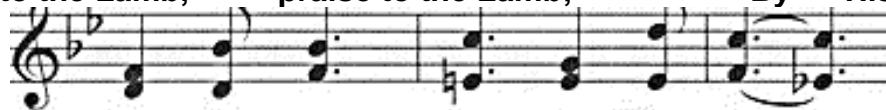
He the Last, God the Lord Most High. Glo-ry, hon-our, pow'r and praise



be to Him al-one! We, with all cre-ation fall, be-fore His throne.



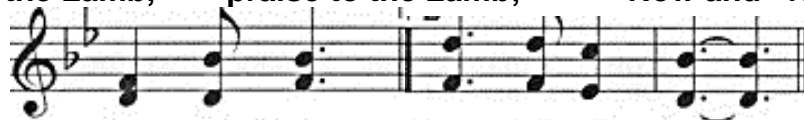
Praise to the Lamb, praise to the Lamb; By His great →



off-er-ing, we are set free!



Praise to the Lamb, praise to the Lamb; Now and for-



ev - er - more! --- Praise to the Lamb!

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank You for revealing Your Son Jesus on the mountain in glory before entering into His suffering and death. Give us faith to recognise Him as Your dear Son, and strengthen us when we must suffer as His followers, until we come to share in His glory. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

The Old Testament: *Exodus 24: 8-18*

Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and

Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: 2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM: "This Is My Beloved Son"

Song # 51375 Pepper Choplin – Text: © 2006, Lorenz Publishing All Rights Reserved – Streamed with Permission under One License # A-741085 – All Rights Reserved

The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 17: 1-9

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 17th chapter: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, 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 white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud over-shadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL SONG:

"I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light"

Kathleen Thomerson © 1970



1. I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to
2. I want to see ___ the bright-ness of God, I want to
3. I'm look - ing for ___ the com - ing of Christ, I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my
fol - low Je - sus. When we have run ___ with pa - tience the



world, the star of my life ___ is Je - sus. In Him there
path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
race, we shall know the joy ___ of Je - sus.



is no dark-ness at all, the night and the day ___ are both a -



-like; The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of



God, shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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MESSAGE

GOD RECEIVES OUR GIFTS & HEARS OUR PRAYERS

OFFERING SONG:

"Create In Me"

(Tune: Sweet Hour Of Prayer)



Cre -- ate in me, cre - ate in me, a clean heart Lord, cre-

-ate in me; re -- new a spir -- it right in me, cre -
 -ate in me, cre -- ate in me. Your pres - ence ne'er de -
 -part from me, Your Spir - it ne'er re--move from me, re--
 -store to me Your joy so free! Cre -- ate in me, cre - ate in me.

Music: William Bradbury, 1861, *Sweet Hour*, LMD – reprinted: www.hymnary.org/hymn/CGH2010/page/386
 Words: Ps. 51, adapted & arranged by Rev. T. Hoeffs, 2017.

THE OFFERINGS are gathered.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Holy God, Mighty Lord, gracious Father, in the transfiguration of Jesus, we see your glory. And we see what everyone joining to Jesus on the mount will be like. Thank you for showing us that Your Beloved Son truly is all in all. Thank you for his suffering and death, which transfigures our own. Thank you for the vision of his glory, which he lovingly pours upon all who believe in His name by faith.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great!**

Transfigure your Church. Make her a lamp, radiating your beloved Son's light and life. Make her a place where all may eat and drink in your presence and live. Make her a place where glorious truth of the Gospel is confidently shared so that all may come to be fashioned into the image and likeness of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great!**

Transfigure this congregation: the people and commitments; decisions and vision; worship, service, and fellowship. Make our every word and action remain honest, faithful and clear, through which the radiance of Jesus' love shines unimpeded upon everyone we meet.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great!**

Transfigure the suffering of your persecuted Church. Unite her to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Give them grace to speak truth and offer forgiveness to all enemies. Transfigure avenues of serving, teaching, evangelizing and witnessing, so all they say and do points to Jesus and bears His redeeming presence to the world.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great!**

Transfigure this death-shadowed world; all people and leaders. Enlighten minds to seek your truth, and purify hearts to delight in following your will. Turn us from being enemies of you, of one another, and of our own eternal good. Transfigure us into your faithful sisters and brothers to one another, wise stewards of creation, and lovers of your Beloved Son.

Hear us, O God; **our mercy is great!**

Transfigure the lives of all who sit in the shadows of suffering and sorrow – especially: {we pray for}. Grant that Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, may rise upon them with healing in his wings. Let sorrow be turned to joy; fear into hope; and despair into faith in

your love.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great!**

And finally, we are ever grateful because you have transfigured the death of your faithful servants. We humbly ask: transfigure each of us more and more into Jesus' image. Even now, make him our all in all. Speed the day when we gaze into the faces of your redeemed people, and see Jesus lovingly embracing us in a full Heavenly welcome.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great!**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant to us, dear Father, for the sake of your Son, our Beautiful Savior Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come...

GREETING & BLESSING:

Let us praise the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG:

"Because He Lives"

© 1971 Gaither



1. God sent His Son— They called Him Je - sus; He came to
2. How sweet to hold our new-born ba - by, and feel the
3. And then one day I'll cross that riv - er; I'll fight life's



love, heal and for - give. He bled and died
pride and joy he gives; But great - er still
fi - nal war with pain. And then, as death



— to buy my par - don; An emp - ty grave is there to
— the calm as - sur - ance: This child can face un - cer - tain
— gives way to vic - t'ry, I'll see the lights of glo - ry



prove my Sav - ior lives. Be - cause He lives I can face to -
days be-cause Christ lives.
and I'll know He reigns.



-mor - row; Be - cause He lives, all fear is gone.



— Be - cause I know _____ He holds the fu - ture, _____



— and life is worth the liv - ing just be-cause He lives. _____

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REV. TODD HOEFFS
Transfiguration Sunday (Series A)
Scripture: St. Matthew 17 & 2 Peter
February 19, 2023
“Renewal always outshines regret”

**Change can be scary, but
you know what's scarier?
Allowing fear to stop you
from growing, evolving,
and progressing.**

There's a saying: People don't change. Circumstances change people. As if to say, people don't want to or can't change – on their own. A life change, changes them. [My MOM! Personal example here.]

And you never get a 2nd chance to make a 1st impression. If you see what they're like in your 1st encounter, believe it. This is all a bit of cultural wisdom. What's kinda missing is the WAY a circumstance can change us. The way we CAN make better impressions on people.

Circumstances DO play a big roll in affecting how we react. A physical move; A marriage [a divorce] A health crisis Your child in trouble. Your best friend dies.

Change in life's circumstances can only be navigated by Jesus. HE is the WAY we change and transform through the circumstances. Change in life can be scary; but what's even scarier?

REGRET. So many people's minds are filled with thoughts of “what IF I would've done that...” or “I wish I would have chosen this...” Fewer events in life bring unhappiness than regret.

As Christian people, we're not meant to live in regret. We can be reflective. We can take stock of our life. We can weigh our decisions. We can take accountability and accept responsibility.

But we can't live in regret. Regret worries about what might have been or what will be.

We have today. And for that, we live in HOPE. We are a people of Hope, as followers of Jesus.

Hope does not disappoint us. Hope strengthens our daily walk. Hope is born out of God being good to His Word. Which is bringing each of you through tough times Because Jesus has paved the way.

The circumstance of change on the mountain with Jesus Has forever brightened our walk in this life.

Jesus' transfiguration. In Greek its metamorphosis – the inner DIVINE GOD LIFE Is shining through His human flesh and bone and person. Change in His appearance, Which changed Peter, James and John. Little did they know what they'd see and hear and experience with their rabbi. They are transfigured, too. Their understanding of Who Jesus is changed. It didn't make sense, but would all come into clear faith later on the day of Pentecost with the sending of the Holy Spirit.

Peter later puts pen to paper to write his letter -- As an EYEWITNESS TO JESUS' GLORY.

You are eyewitnesses of His glory. Week after week you hear and sing of the Lord's glorious work among His people. Today, Transfiguration Sunday marks the climactic end of our Epiphany season in the church. The Glory of God come down to earth is seen by 3 disciples, now they see Him differently. New. Bright. Caught up in something out of this world! Looking like God. Hearing that booming voice from up above the Heavens. More than Peter, James and John expected. There are times we look at our life, our circumstances, and we want more. We want our lives new.

We want to forget our regret. There's a restlessness, a searching, and longing for something else. We're tired of listening to the same old news. We want a new job, a new car, a new relationship. Maybe we take up a new hobby, go on a trip, or work extra hours. But not much changes. It's less about the stuff around us, it's about us. The desire for something more generally means that we've been living life at the shallow end of the pool. Life and relationships may have grown superficial. In some ways life at the surface is easier, more efficient, encouraged and rewarded by much of the world today. It fails, however, to see and experience that we and the world have already been transfigured and look forward to the fulfillment when Jesus returns on the Last Day.

Life on the surface keeps us judging the circumstances. If it's pretty, pleasing, and shows us what we want to see then God is good and life is as it should be. When we don't see what we want then we often look for a new picture. Peter liked what He saw on the mountain, and yet he didn't fully grasp it. Jesus, Elijah, Moses, a cloud, a voice, glowing clothing, bright light, must've looked incredible. Peter didn't have Hollywood movies to spoil his expectations. It would've made him speechless. And afraid. Everyone wanted to see a heavenly vision, few got the chance. If Peter can only build a tent for it, to save it, imagine what everyone else would think of this, of him?! We do not need to see new things. We need to see the same old things with new eyes. We do not need to hear a different voice or a different Word. We need to hear the same old voice and the same old story with different ears. We do not need to escape the circumstances of our life. We need to be more fully present in those circumstances. When this happens life is no longer lived at the surface. These are the transfigured moments, moments when the picture of our life has become a window into a new world and we come face to face with the glory of God at work in us. With Jesus we discover the God who is beyond circumstances. The Mount of Transfiguration becomes a new way of seeing, a new way of hearing, and new way of being. Jesus did not suddenly light up and become something he was not. Jesus' light opened up Peter, James and John's eyes to really SEE. See Him as He's always been. The voice in the cloud was not new. Their ears were opened and they heard the voice that has never ceased speaking from the beginning. The transfiguration is as much about them as it is Jesus. Circumstances haven't changed. We have changed and that seems to change everything. Maybe it was the day you revealed to another person the secret you had carried for years. In telling the secret the picture of your life as one of guilt and shame became an open window through which you stepped. The darkness gave way to light, the chains fell off, and forgiveness overcame sin.

We often want to go back to those transfigured moments. Our sinfulness makes us want a romanticized, head in the clouds recollection of that life should be like for us now. The present isn't good enough and the future is somewhat unknown and unpredictable. The past we know, we lived it, but our memories are faulty. We, too, are tempted to build tents for those moments. Tents will only keep us in the past. Clinging to the past we only close ourselves off to the future God offers.

Jesus, Peter, James, and John come back down the mountain.

They could not stay there but neither did they leave the mountain. They took it with them.

It is what carries them through the shocking horrors of Jesus' passion and crucifixion.

When the once booming voice grows silent As the earth groans under the cleansing ransom of Jesus' shed Blood. On the mountain of Calvary is our transfiguration From a sinner to a saved person in Him. TO this, God says, LISTEN TO HIM. Listen to Jesus. No more nonsense of preserving the glory under temporary tents. That's' already happened. We all need to see Jesus as the true tent, the great and holy temple, up there on the mount with light and smoke. Embrace the change that Jesus' transfiguration brings. A new way, a changed life, a fresh start, a life lived in Jesus. Our regret and worry is melted in the light of Christ, Glowing from the baptismal waters, In laser beam precision burning away the old. Regardless of the circumstances we face. These show us who we are.

A transfigured people of God. He's opened your eyes and ears to His transfiguring voice.

A voice calling you back into His presence to transform and forgive and bless. After the gift of the Holy Spirit, Peter preaches as an eyewitness. Jesus chose Peter, James and John as eyewitnesses. Baptism into Jesus chooses us as eyewitnesses of the very same glory. God's holy mount now is at the altar. When we share the Bread and Wine, Jesus is transfigured And we in Him. Heaven comes down to earth. Jesus is present in flesh and blood reality for you to eat and drink. You are eyewitnesses of Jesus in the world. You are transfigured images of Jesus in the world.

Repenting after your renewal. Speaking the Word of truth, helping those in need, listening and encouraging. You have the same faith Peter writes about to the Church awaiting death.

Purely by God's gift of grace through faith! This experience, along with the gift of faith, makes Peter a suitable writer comforting Christians so far away. Peter writes in Rome, during Emperor Nero's era persecution. Now, toward the end of his ministry, Peter has a rock-solid handle on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, even as he soon would die nailed to a cross up-side-down. Our circumstances may not change, but we will be changed.

In an episode of the old MASH TV Show, Col. Potter makes a mistake in surgery.

He worries if at age 61 he's losing his skill. Psychiatrist Sydney talks to him, revealing this fear.

"Whether you lose that skill today or some other day, it will happen. But you mustn't let the fear make the decision for you." Good wisdom. Forgiven & transformed followers of Christ as we are have nothing to fear.

You grow.

You trust.

No more regretting, only faith-filled transformed hearts of hope.

Amen.