

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Transfiguration of the Lord
February 11, 2024
10:30 AM

PRELUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus
Mary Jo Cox, piano

Ruth Elaine Schram

WORDS OF GREETING

One: The glory of God shines
like a consuming fire.

**All: We have seen the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.**

WELCOME

INTROIT

Jesus on the Mountain Peak

Brian Wren

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tim Fitzgerald

One: It is God who gathers us here.
It is not our denomination that
gathers us or our church staff
or our family, or our political parties.

All: It is God who gathers us here.

One: We find ourselves on the mountain
this Transfiguration Day,

**All: witnessing a last flash of glory
before a forty-day journey.**

One: It is not about us;

All: it is all about Jesus Christ.

One: From the river Jordan to this place,

All: it is all about Jesus Christ.

One: From Ash Wednesday toward Easter,

All: it is all about Jesus Christ.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN No. 409

God Is Here!

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*CALL TO CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all glory, beauty, and grace,
we have tried to hide from you--
to hide our faces, hide our sin—
yet you have never hidden your love for us.
We have tried to search for you—**

**in temples, in clouds, on mountaintops—
yet you have already revealed yourself to us
in the face of Jesus Christ.
Forgive us, and transform us
so that our lives may shine
with your glory, beauty, and grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*RESPONSE No. 605

Praise to God the Father
**Praise to God the Father;
praise to God the Son;
praise to God the Spirit:
praise to the Three-in-One.**
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
**Praise to God Almighty;
praise to the Holy One.**

CHILDREN'S OFFERING; BLESSING

**Congregation: May the Lord go with you as you
worship and learn together.**

Children: May the Lord be with you as you
worship here.

Congregation: Go in peace.

Children: We go in peace. Amen.

During the response to the Passing of the Peace, newborns through 5th grade are invited to come forward to the chancel steps for the blessing. After the blessing, they will be dismissed to the Nursery and to the Children's Worship Center in the lower level for the Children and Worship time. Please pick up your child from the Nursery or Worship Center when they have finished their time of worship.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

2 Kings 2:1-12

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Fairest Lord Jesus
Oliver Gottbreht, solo

Jonathan Crutchfield

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9:2-9

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“Transfiguration”

Andrew Miller

Question of the Day: What is your understanding of transfiguration?

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN No. 193

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

(vs. 1,3,4,5)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(If you have a prayer of concern or joy, please text 989-954-3297.)

MORNING PRAYER AND 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 sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN No. 192

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

(see hymnal)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

This is God's Beloved Son

Brian Wren

*POSTLUDE

Thanks Be to God Who Reigns

John Barr

*NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS, SO GO IN PEACE AND SERVE THE LORD

Notes:

*Stand in body and spirit.

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox; Tim Fitzgerald; The Chancel Choir; Andrew Miller

The Prayers and Concern of the Congregation are extended to:

J T Schmitt (Barb Lindley's son-in-law), Nick Baker, Wendy Shugert, Mike McNabb, Bob Hand, Scott Campbell (Andrew & Martha Miller's friend), Dana Hendershot (Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran), Betty Gempel, Jillian & Flynn Gray, Martha Loubert (sister-in-law of John, Pete, and Sheri Loubert), Lois Miller, Jaime Love (brother of Kevin Love), Louisa Ellis (Jeff & Cam Ellis granddaughter), Olivia Geisthardt (friend of Anna Clare Miller), Suzanne Hand, Charles Loubert, Jim Gilbert, Peter and Verna Russell, Lois Kerr, Sarah Gilbert, Joyce McNabb, Colleen Long, Lavona Osborne. Cathy Chang, Juan Lopez, and Noah Lapp, Vowles Elementary, Sandusky Presbyterian, Sandusky, MI, Church of North India, and Woodland Hospice House.

Offering

If you are joining us for worship in-person and would like to give an offering, please place your offering in an offering plate. You can also give your pledge, per capita payment, or offering by mailing it to the church office: First Presbyterian Church, 1250 Watson Road, Mt. Pleasant,

48858. You can also give an offering by going to the church's website, www@fpcmp.org and hit the "Give Now" button or use the QR Code,



Please join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Restore the Glory

Sanctuary Ceiling Repair, Painting, & Light Replacement

The repair, painting and light replacement for our sanctuary ceiling will begin shortly after Easter in 2024. We scheduled the work so that we will have experienced all types of seasonal weather, making sure our new roof is doing its job!

Please help us restore the sanctuary ceiling to its original glory. We need \$20,000 to cover the costs of the ceiling repair, painting, and lighting improvements, a small contingency fund for unforeseen problems, and a tithe for Presbyterian Outreach Ministries. As you know, this project is much needed and has been anticipated for a long time.

A more detailed fact sheet is available in the church Narthex. Please direct any questions to Kevin Love, Chair of the House & Grounds Team, a member of Session, or Pastor Andrew.

Souper Bowl of Caring

We will collect the Souper Bowl of Caring special offering today. 100% of the proceeds will go towards helping purchase a semi-truck load of food for the Food Pantry of Community Compassion Network.

Homeless Shelter Supply Move In

Help is needed on Sunday today at 12:15 to move in the supplies for the rotating homeless shelter. We will host February 11-18.

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. Lent is the six weeks (40 days excluding Sundays) leading up to the day we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Easter Sunday. On Wednesday February 14, Pastor Andrew will be available in the Sanctuary for three different blocks of time for you to drop by for the Imposition of Ashes and to pray with you individually. The times are from 7-8AM, 12Noon-1pm, and 4-7pm. If you would like to participate but are unable to get out of your vehicle, please call Pastor Andrew (989-954-3297) to schedule a time for a drive-up time of prayer and Imposition of Ashes.

Introduction to Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and repentance. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience,

we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever.

The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. This first day of Lent reminds us that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. In many traditions, this is symbolized through the imposition of ashes — placing a cross on one's forehead. During the imposition of ashes the words: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) are repeated again and again. We are to remember that we are but temporary creatures, always on the edge of death. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten trek through the desert toward Easter.

Ashes on the forehead is a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not to show off one's faith. The ashes are a reminder to us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die.

Trusting in the "accomplished fact" of Christ's resurrection, however, we listen for the Word of God in the time-honored stories of the church's Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed "on the way" to Jerusalem and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of *metanoia* ("turning around"), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross.