

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

* Please stand in body or spirit Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

Prelude: “My Lord, What A Morning” Organist, Julie Pulliam
Spiritual

Welcome The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

* **Call to Worship** (Please stand) Elder, Linda Johnston

O Lord, you are a lover of justice, (Psalm 99)

You seek equity and have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

We praise your great and awesome name,

We come to worship you at your holy mountain.

* **Hymn** “Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise” No. 263

Call to Prayer and Prayer for Renewal (Be seated) Elder

In the transfiguration story, Jesus’ clothes became dazzling white,
a sign of resurrection out of the violence the world inflicted upon him.

Resurrection reminds us that the sins of the world
and of our lives will not have the last word.

God’s love, compassion and justice will be established on the earth.

So let us confess before God and one another.

**Merciful God, even when we see your justice transfigured before us,
we cower 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.

(A time for silent prayer)

Declaration of Forgiveness Linda Valo

Amen. Just as a cloud overshadowed the disciples in the transfiguration story,
and they heard a voice say that Jesus is the beloved of God,
so too we are God’s beloved people.

Be forgiven and restored to our right standing as God’s beloved.

Friends, in Jesus Christ, we have been fed God’s grace and redemption.

* **Sung Response** (Stand as desired.) Tune: Bring a Torch

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on High.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination and Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 24:12-18 Deacon Reader, Lori Golightly
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** (pgs 71-72)

Anthem “Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory” Tune: George Henry Day
WRPC Choir Words by Thomas H. Troeger PH # 73

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:1-9 Guest Preacher, Linda Valo
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** (NT pgs.17-18)

Time with all Ages: The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey
(As the children come forward, please join in singing.)

This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.

Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.

Sermon “It’s Good to Be Here” Guest Preacher, Linda Valo

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* **Affirmation of Faith** (From the *Belhar Confession*) Elder

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the communion of saints called from the entire human family.**

We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation

is made manifest in the church as the community of believers

who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation

for the church of Jesus Christ;

that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force,

yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought:

one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;

that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe

that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin

which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which

threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;

that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a

variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice

and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give

ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another;

that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind.

Amen.

* **Hymn** "Fairest Lord Jesus" No. 306

Announcements Whit Dempsey

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer Front of Hymnal, Pg. 16
(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

Offertory "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" Organist, Julie Pulliam
Spiritual

* **Presentation of Offering** "Doxology" No. 591/2

***Praise God, From whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, All creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

* **Prayer of Dedication**

* **Hymn** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" No. 464

Charge and Benediction

* **Sung Congregational response:** *Christ, Be Our Light!* GTG 314



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



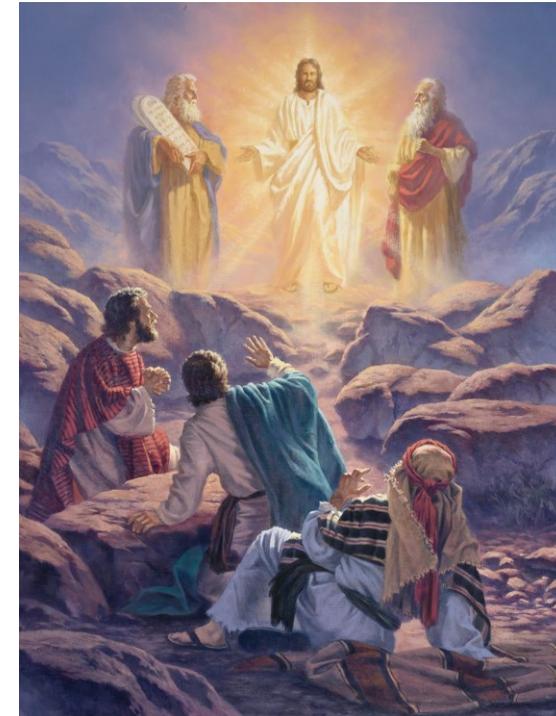
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered to - day.

Postlude "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Organist, Julie Pulliam
Hymn #563, Presbyterian Hymnal

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Linda Johnston
Time with All Ages: Whitney Dempsey
Ushers: Jo Ann Flores and

Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly
Greeter: Eleanor Fowler



WPC Mission Statement

*To worship God through faith and action,
to nurture the spirit of Jesus Christ in each of us,
to be an extended family to all,
and to serve the community
through programs, education and prayer.*

***February 19, 2023
Transfiguration Sunday***