



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

...making disciples, growing in faith together and serving others in Christ

February 27, 2022

Transfiguration of the Lord

10:30am

GATHERING

Scripture – Luke 9:28-36

Prelude

Glory Be to Jesus

Archer/Wood

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 99

The Eternal is the king ruling over all;
let all people worship in awe.

He sits on His throne, settled between winged guardians;
let the planet tremble.

**The Eternal is great in the hearts of His people;
He has made Zion His sacred mountain,
and He reigns majestic over all people.**

Let them express praise and gratitude to God's amazing and awesome name—
because God is holy, perfect and exalted in power.

**The King who rules with strength also treasures justice.
God created order and established what is right.**

You have carried out justice
and done what is right to the people of your promises.

**Lift up the Eternal our God in your heart;
bow down to the earth where He rests His feet.**

God is holy, perfect and exalted in power and love.

Hymn

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine



Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine.
 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine.
 Ho - ly Spir - it, power di - vine, fill and nerve this will of mine.
 Ho - ly Spir - it, law di - vine, reign with - in this soul of mine.
 Ho - ly Spir - it, peace di - vine, still this rest - less heart of mine.
 Ho - ly Spir - it, joy di - vine, glad - den now this heart of mine.



Voice of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it, clear my sight.
 Kin - dle ev - ery high de - sire, pu - ri - fy me with your fire.
 Bold - ly may I al - ways live, brave - ly serve, and glad - ly give.
 Be my law, and I shall be firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.
 Speak to calm this tos - sing sea, grant me your tran - quil - i - ty.
 In the des - ert ways I sing: spring, O Liv - ing Wa - ter spring!

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

Holy Spirit, truth divine, forgive us our falsehoods.
Holy Spirit, love divine, forgive our selfish moments.
Holy Spirit, power divine, forgive what we have done, or failed to do.
Holy Spirit, law divine, forgive us our trespasses.
Holy Spirit, peace divine, set us free from our worries.
Holy Spirit, joy divine, honor our sorrows but implant in us your deep gladness.

Hear our prayers...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #600

Amen



Affirmation of Faith — from the Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering our Offerings

Offertory Music

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Rebecca Layfield, soprano

arr. Dale Wood

LISTENING

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Illumination

Lord's Prayer

Scripture – 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

*Hymn #228

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. *[repeat]*

Scripture – Luke 9:28-43

Sermon in Words

“All were astounded at the greatness of God.”

*Hymn #718

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross, let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and let your foolish pride be still;
the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and calmly every danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life and leads to victory o'er the grave.

DEPARTING

*Benediction

*Sung Response

Northumbria Community

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you.
May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.
May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you.
May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

Postlude

Information & Announcements

Welcome to our guests!

Whether you are sharing in the worship of God with us for the first time, visiting with family or friends, or returning for a visit to your home church, we welcome you today in the name of Jesus. Please share some contact information with us so we can follow up with you and make a place for you in our weekly fellowship. You may email our church office at admin@northminstermacon.org.

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have a need or a request for prayer, please contact the church office.

Current Member Concerns: Ann R. Smith; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; Jon Geerlings; Kathy Wheeler; Betty Barlow; Donna Shuford; Frank Clark; Janet Kelly; Lynn Southerland; Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow; Joel Jones; Hazel Crow
Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson)

Loads of Love – THANK YOU!

The Northminster Neighborhood Committee is overwhelmed with gratitude. The need for \$2000 to cover a new washer and dryer for Rosa Taylor elementary school has already been surpassed! Thank you so much for filling this need. All funds beyond what was needed to purchase the washer and dryer will remain in the Rosa Taylor supply closet fund, being used to help make sure the closet stays stocked with essentials for students in need.

Chili Cook-off & Bake Sale

Join us for the annual Chili Cookoff and Bake Sale today after worship! This church-wide event will help raise money for the youth to attend Montreat.

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our calling at Northminster is to make disciples, to grow in faith together, and to serve others in Christ.

CONGREGATION: Ministers of the Good News; SESSION of Ruling Elders: Kari Alderman; Barbara Fatkin; Roland Hill; Jan Hirsh; Melissa McDougald; Jinny McDuffie; Ray Mosely; Michael Napier; Minor Vernon; Genny Whitaker
RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate SANDRA SMITH, Music Director
KAREN JONES, Clerk of Session JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

Office hours this week: Monday - Thursday 8:30-1:00

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"His face shone like the sun," Matthew says, "and his garments became white as light." Moses and Elijah were talking to him. There was a bright cloud overshadowing him and out of it a voice saying, "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." The three disciples who witnessed the scene "fell on their faces, and were filled with awe" (Matthew 17:1-6).

It is as strange a scene as there is in the Gospels. Even without the voice from the cloud to explain it, they had no doubt what they were witnessing. It was Jesus of Nazareth all right, the man they'd tramped many a dusty mile with. whose mother and brothers they knew, the one they'd seen as hungry, tired, footsore as the rest of them. But it was also the Messiah, the Christ, in his glory. It was the holiness of the man shining through his humanness, his face so afire with it they were almost blinded.

Even with us something like that happens once in a while. The face of a man walking his child in the park, of a woman picking peas in the garden, of sometimes even the unlikeliest person listening to a concert, say, or standing barefoot in the sand watching the waves roll in, or just having a beer at a Saturday baseball game in July. Every once and so often, something so touching, so incandescent, so alive transfigures the human face that it's almost beyond bearing.

Frederick Buechner, *Whistling in the Dark: A Doubter's Dictionary*

O Christ,
tirelessly you seek out those who are looking for you
and who think that you are far away;
teach us, at every moment,
to place our spirits in your hands.
While we are still looking for you,
already you have found us.
However poor our prayer,
you hear us far more than we can imagine or believe.

Brother Roger of Taizé, France

Monday Morning

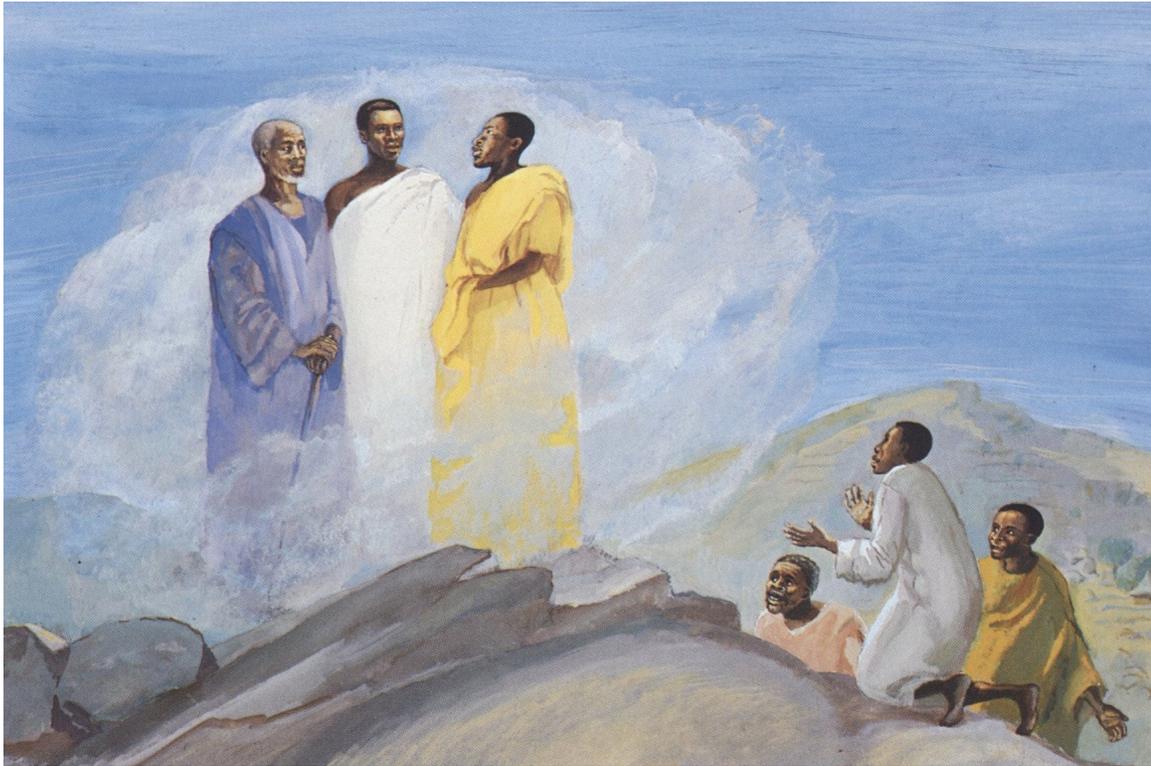
About eight days after these sayings, Jesus took Peter, James and John and went off to the hill-side to pray. And then, while he was praying, the whole appearance of his face changed and his clothes became white and dazzling. And two men were talking with Jesus. They were Moses and Elijah—revealed in heavenly splendour, and their talk was about the way he must take and the end he must fulfil in Jerusalem. But Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep and it was as they struggled into wakefulness that they saw the glory of Jesus and the two men standing with him. Just as they were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here! Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still talking, a cloud overshadowed them and awe swept over them as it enveloped them. A voice came out of the cloud, saying "This is my Son, my chosen! Listen to him!" And while the voice was speaking, they found there was no one there at all but Jesus. The disciples were reduced to silence, and in those days never breathed a word to anyone to what they had seen.

Then on the following day, as they came down the hill-side, a great crowd met him. Suddenly a man from the crowd shouted out, "Master, please come and look at my son! He's my only child, and without any warning some spirit gets hold of him and he calls out suddenly. Then it convulses him until he foams at the mouth, and only after a fearful struggle does it go away and leave him bruised all over. I begged your disciples to get rid of it, but they couldn't."

"You really are an unbelieving and difficult people," replied Jesus. "How long must I be with you, how long must I put up with you? Bring him here to me." But even while the boy was on his way, the spirit hurled him to the ground in a dreadful convulsion. Then Jesus reprimanded the evil spirit, healed the lad and handed him back to his father. And everybody present was amazed at this demonstration of the power of God.

And while everybody was full of wonder at all the things they saw him do, Jesus was saying to the disciples, "Store up in your minds what I tell you nowadays, for the Son of Man is going to be handed over to the power of men."

Luke 9:28-43 — J. B. Phillips translation (1960)



◀ “Transfiguration” by Jesus Mafa — Cameroon, Africa (1973)

Glory to you, O God, Creator and Father,
for the universe in which we live,
and for men made in your own image.
Glory to you, O Christ,
who took a human body
and redeemed our fallen nature.
Glory to you, O Holy Spirit,
who made our bodies
the temple of your presence.
Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose will is that we should be made whole
in body, mind, and spirit.
Glory to God to all eternity.

George Appleton (1902-93)
Anglican bishop

A comprehended God is no God at all.

Gerhard Tersteegen

The last Sunday before Ash Wednesday is traditionally designated for celebrating the transfiguration of Jesus. At the transfiguration the great glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ was made clear to Peter, James, and John (Mark 9:2-12). In this glory we see a fuller representation of Jesus’ identity, and we glimpse the glory he would receive at the completion of his redemptive work. Transfiguration is the fourth celebration (after Christmas, Epiphany, and the Baptism of our Lord) that affirms the identity of Jesus as not only fully human but also fully divine. Together these celebrations prepare us for the journey toward the cross and empty tomb.

The timing of this observance is important. Just as the transfiguration prepared Jesus for his passion and death, so our observance of his transfiguration prepares us for our Lenten journey in which we concentrate on his sufferings. The spirit and the colors of the worship space at this time should aim to reflect Christ’s glory, so the suggested color for celebrating Transfiguration is white.

The Worship Sourcebook

The final response of the three disciples [on the mountain] is that of awe (Luke 9:34) and silence (v. 36). That seems to be the only possible response to what they have witnessed. Their silence acknowledges the mystery of this event and the magnitude of its implications. Their silence also signals their obedience to Jesus’ earlier warning that they should not tell anyone Jesus’ identity (9:21). Their silence also reflects their own lack of readiness for the task of witnessing that will later be theirs (Acts 1:8); it is not yet time for the disciples to speak.

The silence of the disciples does not mean that they fully comprehend what they have seen and heard, as is clear from the stories that immediately follow. They are unable to cast out a demon from a severely afflicted boy (9:37-42); they do not understand Jesus’ comments about his upcoming death (9:43-45); worse yet, they quarrel over which of them is greatest (9:46-48). They still must learn to listen to the Chosen One (9:35), but that hearing has its rightful beginning in their awed silence.

Texts for Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary, Year C