

WELCOME ALL ON TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY



FEBRUARY 19, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 2408 N. NAVARRO ST. | VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
February 19, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Transfiguration Sunday

Prelude: Fairest Lord Jesus

*-Silesian Folk Tune, 1842
arr. Gordon Young, 1968, Robert Wyatt, 1979*

Welcome and Announcements

*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: From a cloud, and in a crowd, God speaks to us.

All: **Calling us to be lovers of justice, to share hope with the broken.**

One: On mountaintops, and in neighborhoods, Christ calls to us.

All: **With a word, and with wonder, molding us into who we are.**

One: On the playground, and at the workstation,
the Spirit whispers in our hearts.

All: **Gathering up our fears, as well as our dreams,
and offering them to God.**

Opening Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

No. 464

Prayer of the Day

One: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son
you confirmed the mysteries of the faith
by the witness of Moses and Elijah;
and in the voice from the cloud
you foreshadowed our adoption as your children.

All: **Make us, with Christ, heirs of your glory,
and bring us to enjoy its fullness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Litany for Transfiguration of the Lord

One: Blessed is the Lord our God,
who revealed the law to Moses.

All: The Lord our God is holy!

One: Blessed is the Lord our God,
who has spoken through the prophets.

All: The Lord our God is holy!

One: Blessed is the Lord our God,
who came to us in Jesus Christ.

All: The Lord our God is holy!

One: The one who spoke and called light out of darkness
now shines in our hearts.

All: The Lord our God is holy!

One: The one who comes and does not keep silence
now speaks in our midst.

All: The Lord our God is holy!

One: Now we have seen the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.

All: The Lord our God is holy!

One: Great God of dazzling beauty
and overshadowing majesty,
in Jesus Christ, your beloved,
we glimpse the image of your glory.
Teach us to listen to him
so that we may hear your voice
and follow your holy way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Sometimes we wait for God to astound us with whirlwinds of wonders,
while God silently offers us grace.
God waits to forgive us, so let us hold nothing back,
but place our trust in the One who listens to our prayers and answers us with mercy.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**God of compassion,
in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory,
but we turn away, distracted by our own plans.
We confess that we speak when we should listen,
and act when we should wait.**

**Forgive our aimless enthusiasms.
Grant us wisdom to live in your light
and to follow in the way of your beloved Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

Kyrie Eleison (*unison*)

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

Assurance of Pardon

On mountaintops and in valleys, in our hopes and in our hearts,
God knows us better than we know ourselves,
and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves!
By God's mercy, we are forgiven;
by God's mercy, we are made whole;
by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

God of shining splendor,
your voice makes the earth tremble in wonder.
Overshadow us with your Spirit
so that we may hear your Word
and live as faithful disciples
and covenant people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

P. 70 in the Old Testament

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out 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. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Anthem: The Lord Is My Light

-Frances Allitsen, 1848-1912

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

P.P. 18-19 in the New Testament

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John 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 dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Sermon: Touched by God

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 17:7: But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.”

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

No. 263

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Jesus on the Mountain Peak

-Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1907-1991

***Doxology** (*unison*)

No. 592

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*unison*)

**God of mountaintops and valleys,
be our vision of you clouded or brilliantly clear.
Bless these offerings that they may be transfigured
into your presence in the world. Amen.**

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

From A 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.**

**We trust in God, the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**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. Amen**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God,
you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust.
Hear our prayers for your church and world:

for the hungry and the overfed,
may we have enough;

for the mourners and the mockers,
may we laugh together;

for the victims and the oppressors,
may we share power wisely;

for the peacemakers and the warmongers,
may clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony;

for the silenced and the propagandists,
may we speak our own words in truth;

for the unemployed and the overworked,
may our mark on this earth be kindly and creative;

for the troubled and the secure,
may we live together as wounded healers;

for the homeless and the pampered,
may our homes be simple, warm, and welcoming;

for the vibrant and the dying,
may we all die to sin and live to love. Amen.

***Closing Hymn:** "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

No. 462

***Charge**

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** (*unison*)

-Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880/William G Tomer, 1880

**God be with you until we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you 'till we meet again**

**'Till we meet, 'till we meet
'Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
'Till we meet, till we meet
God be with you 'till we meet again.**

Postlude: O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

-“The Agincourt Song”, England, C. 1415

Below are the lyrics of the hymns selected for this morning's worship service. All the hymns below are either in the public domain or have been reproduced, under license, from *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville: 1990) or from Christian Copywrite Licensing International (*ccli.com*). If you are worshiping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1
Verse 2

Verse 3
Verse 4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, Joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

Mortals, join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return,
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Cheery my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine;
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

A graphic announcement for an Ash Wednesday Service. It features a central white rectangular area with a dark, textured border. Inside the white area, the text is centered. At the top, there is a dark, smudged graphic element resembling ash. The main title "Ash Wednesday Service" is in a large, bold, black font. Below it, the date and time "WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 22, 2023 | 6:00 PM" are in a smaller, bold, black font. The bottom part of the text reads "Come worship with us, as we mark the beginning of the Lenten Season" in a large, bold, black font.

**Ash Wednesday
Service**

WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 22, 2023 | 6:00 PM

**Come worship with us,
as we mark the beginning of
the Lenten Season**



[Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests](#)

Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)	Kathleen McCameron
Linda Patterson	Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)	Mikey Ruddock	Michael Cabrera (Grandson of Martha Tarkington)
Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)			

For caregiving concerns—please contact:
Lynn McAuley (979.248.6238)

[FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service](#)

Wednesday February 22
6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Sunday, February 26
9:30 AM “The Prophets Still Speak”
Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class

9:30 AM Kingdom Kids– Sunday School for children ages 5-12

10:30 AM Worship Service

[FPC Victoria Servant Leadership Session Members](#)

Jim DeMent, Moderator
[Class of 2023](#)

John Horadam, Building & Grounds
Lynn McAuley, Ass’t Clerk, Caregiving & Fellowship
Bonnie Wilkinson, Clerk of Session, Membership
[Class of 2024](#)

Frances Byrne, Caregiving & Fellowship, Personnel
Patrick Patterson, Building & Grounds, Finance
Becky Richter, Christian Education, Mission & Outreach
[Class of 2025](#)

Donald Anderson, Mission & Outreach
Leila Galvan, Christian Education
Camille Miller, Worship

[Other](#)

Dawn Neel, Treasurer
Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School
Jim Stokes, Assistant Treasurer

[Pastor’s Note](#)

Our Bulletin cover bears a classic Renaissance portrayal of the “Transfiguration of Christ.” This oil-on-canvas work, which bears that title, was painted by Luca Giordano (Naples 1634 - 1705) in 1685, and the original hangs in the Uffizi Museum in Florence, Italy.

This painting is basically true to the Biblical account of the event which is recorded in all three Synoptic Gospels. Jesus is transfigured as he talks with Moses (holding the tablets) and Elijah. Peter, James, and John shield their eyes from the sight, having fallen to the ground overcome by fear (Matt 17:6). In such classical representations of the Transfiguration, the artist almost always elevates Jesus off the ground. This lends impact to the miraculous nature of the event, although it is a detail that does not appear in the Bible.

This morning, the detail we will study is what happens immediately after God speaks (“This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” [Matt 17:8]). When the disciples look up, they now see Jesus as his mortal self, standing alone before them. In reassuring them not to be afraid, Jesus has come to them and touched them (Matt 17:7). What must it have been like to be touch by Emmanuel (God in the flesh)? Does Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, reach out to touch us still when we are overcome by fear? Can it be that the miracle of the Transfiguration assures us that the miracle of Jesus’ touch in our lives is still possible-- indeed, dependable-- in faith?

[Clergy, Music, and Administration](#)

Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor
Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster
Erica Colding, Office Administrator

[Office Hours](#)

Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
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