

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Transfiguration of the Lord

February 14, 2021

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

VOLUNTARY

*O Glorious Sight
Sanctuary Choir*

David Cherwin

OPENING HYMN 12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

CALL TO CONFESSION

We can become so burned out by our hectic days that we lose sight of the One who gives us life and surrounds us with simple pleasures. In these quiet moments, away from all those things which distract us, we can bring our brokenness to our Lord who listens to our hearts and heals our souls. You are invited to enter a time of silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

This little life of mine, I'm going to let it shine like a light. Why? Because God loves me and the Bible says that Jesus is the Light of the World. I want live my life more like Jesus. So, thank you for loving and forgiving us.

RESPONSE 582 *Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, you have shown the glory of your love in Jesus Christ and have promised your presence with us by the presence of the Holy Spirit. May we who listen to Christ follow faithfully, and in the dark places where you send us, shine the light of your gospel. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of prophets^[a] who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The company of prophets^[b] who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets^[c] also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰ He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

ANTHEM

This Little Light of Mine
Sanctuary Choir

Arr. Mark Hayes

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Mark 9: 2-9

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

HYMN 662 *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

SERMON

One Step at a Time

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Philippians 2: 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. We believe in Jesus Christ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Ever-present God, we are so grateful for the gift of the slow and steady rain that has soaked the dry and thirsty earth around us. We continue to offer our prayers for other lands in need of a refreshing drink. And we thank you that you fill our world and lives with wonder and amazement. We might miss it if we aren’t looking for it, but every day, God, your presence surrounds us. Every day someone does get well. Every day someone does recover from addiction. Every day someone does come off the streets and into a home. Every day someone does find a job. Lord, we know that not everything we ask for happens, and we do not know why some are healed and some are not, but we hold on to hope and believe that there is good in the world and that You are still at work. We know that death does not have the final word and that there is the promise of resurrection, the greatest wonder of all. We prayer for those known to us who are not in the best of health. Those awaiting test results. Those who know their diagnoses. We pray for those who are frail, who are homebound, those who are alone. In the spirit of rejoicing, our hearts are filled with joy with the gift of new life...through birth, through marriage, through healing. EASTMINSTER We pray that you continue to lead us through the trials, the suffering and sorrow, the challenges and struggles, the tired times and dark places. Be with those who weep or cannot sleep, those who have no peace and who seek release. Lead us with grace, with love, with peace. Fill us with hope, with patience, with stamina Transform us in your image, in your Son, in your Name. Transform us to grow, to understand, to see Transform us that we can be made whole and in wholeness may we be the hands and heart of Christ. Ever-present God, may your light and glory transform lives and may you use our head and hearts to

effect your change into wholeness. When we are down, Lord, lift us up. Remind us of the beauty and joy of the world and help us to cling to hope when all else fails. On this day when we remember the Transfiguration, transform our hearts so that they may be full of hope and joy. We end our prayers clinging to the prayer taught by our Lord, saying: **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The needs of our world are too numerous to name. Shelter, food, clean air and water... Our gifts touch these needs, but the biggest gift we can give is to love the world so much that we give of ourselves. Nothing will transform need more than sacrificial love. So, as you offer your gifts of money, time, and self in the offering today, don't let your giving be done. Start planning to go deeper. May we and others be blessed by God's hopes and dreams for us all.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

True Light

Keith Hampton

RESPONSE 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Teach us, Lord, what we don't know. Show us which way and where to go. Alone we stumble, alone we fall, but your gentle voice leads us through it all. Take our hands, brighten our ways. Be our light night and day. We are weak and sometimes so down, but you give us strength to turn up our frown. Thank you for all you give and teach us to use our blessings for others as we live. Amen

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

Go now sure footed in faith with eyes wide open and waiting for God's glory to surprise you in unexpected ways.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Spirit, Mystery, Sign and Hope be with you and those whose lives you touch now and always. Amen

CLOSING HYMN 744 *Arise, Your Light is Come!*