

Transfiguration Sunday
February 19, 2023
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE *“Adagio in G Minor”*

Tomaso Albinoni (1671-1751) Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 99)

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Holy One.

Many: The Holy One is high on the mountain and exalted among the people.

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Mighty One.

Many: The Mighty God is sovereign, loves justice, and establishes equity.

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Everlasting God.

Many: The Everlasting God hears our cries and answers our call. Praise our God!

HYMN

“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

#182 NCH

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

1 We have come at Christ’s own bidding to this high and holy place, where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God’s grace. Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain, searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

2 Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word, Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet: Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

3 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline, We, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine. But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess, That our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

INVOCATION (All)

Radiant God, we come to you on the mountaintop to experience your glory. You come to us in the valleys. We meet you in gladness in a place where heaven and earth collide. May our worship of you encourage us on the journey and make us aspire to reflect your kingdom in the world. Transform us and keep us near to you. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (All)

Righteous God, we find ourselves wanting to retreat from the harsh realities of life. We can find ourselves lifted to high places and forget those we have left behind. Our concern for our neighbor too often dissipates at the point of our discomfort. Forgive us for wanting to dwell in your presence without being transformed with new energy for the work of your ministry. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE (Pastor)

Just as Jesus gifted his disciples with a moment of respite and awe, it is good for us to transcend movements in the presence of God. When we too often choose to linger there rather than enter into hard or even mundane places, God does not condemn us. With grace and compassion, Jesus encourages us in the direction we should go.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

All are invited to greet one another with such words as "The peace of Christ be with you, and the response: "And also with you."

***ACT OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

RESPONSE (sung twice)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 24:12-18

¹² 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.' ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴ 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.' ¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

2 Peter 1:16-21

Eyewitnesses of Christ's Glory

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God

the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Matthew 17:1-9

The Transfiguration

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

"Beloved: An Appreciation of Heinrich Bullinger (1504-1575)"

Pastor Jim

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

#885 NCH United Church Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

HYMN *"O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair"*
#184 NCH (vs.1-4) John Mason Neale

1 O wondrous sight, O vision fair
of glory that the church shall share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,
where brighter than the sun, Christ glows!

2 From age to age the tale declare,
how with the three disciples there,
Where Moses and Elijah meet,
they with the Christ God's future greet.

3 The law and prophets there have place,
two chosen witnesses of grace;
the Father's voice from out the cloud
proclaims his only Son aloud.

4 With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today
what glory shall be theirs above
who joy in God with perfect love.

MORNING PRAYERS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY (Leader)

Jesus comes down to us as a gift of presence, compassion, and companionship. His entire life is a demonstration of committed generosity and stewardship. We too are called to present our lives as a gift to the God who has created us and the world that needs what we have to offer in time, talent, and treasure. Let us reveal the glory of God by the giving of our good gifts.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING (All)

Generous God may these gifts bring you glory and honor and meet the needs of your people. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

#493 NCH arr. Jeffrey Radford

1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend;
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

2 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will!
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control!
O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul!

3 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be, too;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend!

BENEDICTION (Pastor)

May the shining radiance of God warm you.
May the dazzling splendor of God surprise you.
And the glory of God transform you.
May you come up to the mountaintop.
May you remember the experience with wonder and awe.
And may you come down renewed and empowered
For the glory of God and the hope of the world.

POSTLUDE "Agincourt" John Dunstable

JOYS AND CONCERNS

*Portions of this liturgy written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us in-person, through the internet or on the radio.
We pray that you will hear God's call, seek to follow Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN
98.5FM and 1370AM

**This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored by
"a faithful listener".**

YouTube link for February 19, 2023
<https://youtu.be/5wllxagW4tM>

ANNOUNCEMENTS
TODAY, February 19th –
**After worship - Annual Meeting
and Monthly Meal-Give-Away**

Monday, February 20th –
9 AM Card Making

Tuesday, February 21st –
1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street
***every week at Marge Goetsch's home**

5 PM – Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, February 22nd –
Ash Wednesday at Calvary Lutheran Church
6 PM – Soup Supper
7 PM – Service with Sue Vornholt preaching



