



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
February 19, 2023 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
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The Worship of God

February 19, 2023 Transfiguration Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader: Alice Megonigal

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



In his wonder-filled book, This Sunrise of Wonder, Michael Mayne writes to his grandchildren: "If I could have waved a fairy grandfather's wand at your birth and wished upon you just one gift, it would not have been beauty, or riches, or a long life. It would have been the Gift of Wonder." He suggested that they set their sights not on success, but on a sense of Awe. That's what's going on at the Mount of Transfiguration. In this glimpse of glory, God tries to give the disciples the Gift of Wonder. Oh, that each of us might know the Awe and Wonder of our God!

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Come up to me on the mountain.

P: ***A flame of fire bursts from the bush, but the bush is not consumed.***

L: Come up to me on the mountain and wait.

P: ***We will turn aside and see this great sight; why does this bush not burn?***

L: Come up to me on the mountain, and I will show you the Way.

P: ***We shall take off our shoes, for the place where we stand is holy ground.***

L: Behold, I have heard the crying of creation; I have seen her back groaning under her heavy burden. Rise, my people, and have no fear.

A: ***We shall climb to God on the crown of the world, and the mountains and hills shall sing praises as we go.***

Hymn #138

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

*1-Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.*

*2-Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*



3-Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none before thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

4-Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Prayer of Confession

We know about your glory, O God, but too often it is second-hand information, instead of our own personal experience. Forgive us when we have stayed at the foot of the mountain, when you would have lifted us up into your presence. Revive us with the wonder of your glory, that we may be inspired by your holiness, and challenged to deeper commitment. Hear us, we pray, for Jesus' sake. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear and believe the Good News -

P: Our Holy and Sovereign God is the same God who came to save us in Jesus Christ.

L: Friends, our sins are forgiven, and we are freed to live the abundant life, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

P: Thanks be to God!

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Exodus 24: 12-19

The Gift of God's Law

Lay Leader



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.

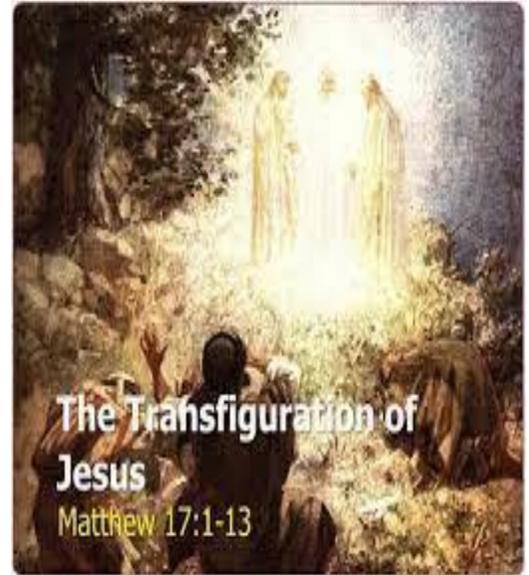
L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music
Second Reading

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Matthew 17: 1-9 *The Transfiguration*

The Bell Choir
Carol

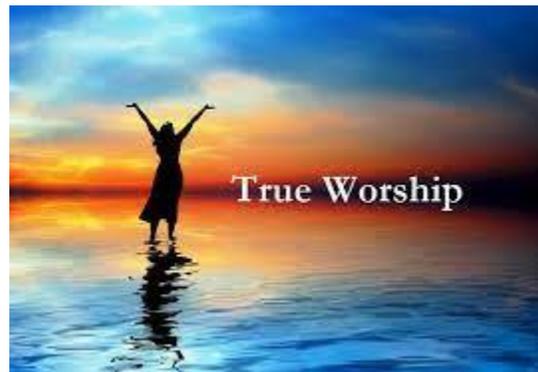
Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then 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.'



L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Is TRUE Worship Really About Sticking Our Heads in the Clouds?



Responding to the Word

Hymn # 191 G2G

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

*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.*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus: *I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet. And anytime, I don't know what to do, I cast all my cares upon you.*

The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

God provided all that we need, and so we are called to return a portion of our blessings to God to be used in God's service. We so appreciate all that each of you shares for our church's ministry. May we all give sacrificially for God's glory.

Prayer of Dedication: We worship you, magnificent God, with sincere reverence, knowing that no gift we give is truly worthy of you, but that you graciously receive us and whatever we bring for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 274 G2G

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

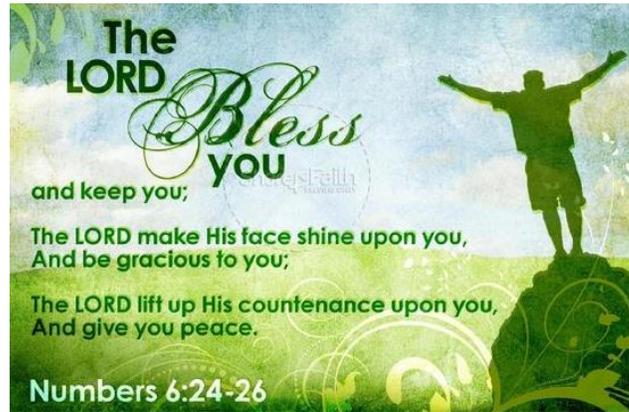
*1-You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peace-maker and sword-bringer
Of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, whom we both scorn and crave.*

*2-Clothed in light upon the mountain,
Stripped of might upon the cross,
Shining in eternal glory,
Beggared by a soldier's toss,
You, the everlasting instant;
You who are both gift and cost.*

*3-You, who walk each day beside us,
Sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
Have a love that reaches wide.
You the everlasting instant;
You, who are our pilgrim guide.*

*4-Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory;
Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our death and life.*





Blessing

- L: Go down from the mountaintop and do not question whether you are worthy or able to live the life God calls you to live.
- P: *We will remember that God goes with us on this journey, and we will not hesitate to boldly serve our God!***
- L: And may the blessings.....

Response

*He is Lord – He is Lord,. He has risen from the dead, and he is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord.*