

Week of February 11, 2024

A tradition my wife, Kara and I have shared since the deaths of our parents, has been to make time to watch their life celebration videos. We sit down to see our lives unfold on the anniversary of their deaths, as well as on each birthday. The ritual has been both comforting and healing. Seeing them, and us, in various stages of our lives preserves our memories, though we have both come to realize that we cannot stay in these captured moments, however much we might want to. Watching, laughing, and crying on these special days of the year ensured we would not remain trapped in grief, but would move forward in life, with a little help along the way.

This week, we are ending the season of Epiphany and preparing to begin Lent, a time of introspection. So, it seems fitting to end the season of light a flash of blinding revelation that illuminates Jesus' identity, and his mysterious words about his coming suffering, death, and resurrection, a transcendence of life. The entire ministry of Jesus might be described as a breakthrough of transcendence. Paul confessed this otherworldliness to those listening at Corinth. Peter, James and John were bowled over by the power of the moment on the mountain of Transfiguration.

My hope for us is to hear the witness of the Transfiguration and know that it is not a story out of our reach, but a realization that every day, in ordinary ways, we too can be transfigured. God calls us to discipleship. Sometimes when we hear God's call, we fall into fear, and when this happens God doesn't scold or rebuke or chastise, but instead calls us to get up, to be raised, and to be bound by fear no longer. Lent approaches with the imposition of ashes this Wednesday and we will have our time for repentance, but, for today, we hear the victory cry of resurrection, and are called to courage, and the promise of new abundant life.

PRAYER: God of light, as you revealed your glory through the transfiguration of your Son, so open our sleepy eyes that we might also see your glory and be transformed by your holy presence. Amen.

Many Blessings!
Pastor Fred

Announcements

- Ash Wednesday opportunities (February 14th):
12PM at Grace by Pastor Fred
7PM at Grace by Amy Fawks and Patti Miller
7PM at Trinity UCC Gettysburg by Pastor Fred

-Welcome to Scott Fredericks and his special music today and also his special guests: Sara Myers and Josh Schriver

-We are working to update the directory. Please check your information (if available) and update/add using the Change of address/phone number forms on the little table.

-In case of inclement weather, updates will be made to Facebook and The Prayer Line

-Movie viewing opportunities in Fellowship Hall:

- Bible Study group on Wed, Feb 28th at 1pm

-Reminder: We are not using printed envelopes for offerings in order to save money and paper. You may pick up a packet of envelopes in the Gathering Place for either monthly or weekly contributions.

-To be good stewards of God's earth, we are recycling paper and plastic. Please look for the recycling paper containers at both entrances. Feel free to put any unwanted bulletins in these containers. The container for plastic bottles will be in The Gathering Place.

Grace Outreach Activities

-February 25, immediately after the worship service, there will be a gathering for anyone interested in signing cards for any Grace off site saints, college students and those serving in the military.

-1-

-8-

Brightly colored Secrets

Grace United Church of Christ
100 Fourth Street
Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331
717-632-1146

In case of inclement weather, please check Facebook or call the Prayer Line 717-634-8865

February 11, 2024
Transfiguration Sunday

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTMINSTER CHIMES

PRELUDE—Before the Throne of God Above ~Cook/Angerman
Sara Myers and Josh Schriver

**SONG: “This Is Amazing Grace” ~Phil Wickham

**CALL TO WORSHIP

Gathering in this sacred place we anticipate new wonders each week.

**Wherever two or three are gathered to worship,
a holy spirit is present.**

Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed, in this place.

**We will want to linger and camp in this sanctuary
but when we leave today may our hearts be open
to all the wonders of God’s beautiful world.**

**OPENING PRAYER

**O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors
you reveal to us the light of your love.**

Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory of the divine presence.

With each encounter we are changed and transformed.
Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit.

Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.

**May we walk among our siblings and friends as a blessing,
bearing light into dark places,
hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate.**

**Our world is hurting and we need to follow Jesus more closely.
Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying,
“Listen to my Child, the Beloved!” Amen.**

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Soul On Fire

Chorus 1

God I'm running for Your heart
I'm running for Your heart
'Til I am a soul on fire

Lord I'm longing for Your ways
I'm waiting for the day
When I am a soul on fire
('Til I am a soul on fire)

Verse

Lord restore the joy I had
I have wandered bring me back
In this darkness lead me through
Until all I see is You yeah

Bridge

Lord let me burn for You again
Let me return to You again
And Lord let me burn for You again
And let me return to You again

Chorus 2

God I'm running for Your heart
I'm running for Your heart
'Til I am a soul on fire
'Til I am a soul on fire
'Til I am a soul on fire

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Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy worthy worthy

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Shine Jesus Shine

Chorus

Shine Jesus shine, Fill this land
With the Father's glory, Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire, Flow river flow
Flood the nations, With grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord, And let there be light

Verse 1

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me

Verse 2

Lord I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood I may enter Your brightness
Search me try me consume all my darkness
Shine on me shine on me

Verse 3

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me

JOYS AND CONCERNs

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Mercy and Grace, you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth
to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us:
Yet we maintain walls that separate and isolate.

You give us the ministry of reconciliation:

**Yet we nurse our wounds and withhold mercy and
forgiveness.**

You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John on the mountain of Transfiguration:

Yet we deny the wonders you have worked in our own lives.
You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth:
Yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us.

You bless our lives with boundless love:
**Yet we fail to witness to that love, and so keep others from
knowing you.**
Forgive our selfishness, and division we pray.
Transform us by your Spirit and your Word
into that which pleases you, a people united, the image of Christ. Amen.

(*Moment for Silent Prayer*)
ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**HYMN: Rise Up, O Church of God
#293

POEM: "Overwhelmed by Love" Patti Miller

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
**Doxology
#625
**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 50:1-6
Mark 9:2-10
TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART/INSTALLATION OF 2024
CONSISTORY

HYMN: Shine, Jesus Shine (see insert)

SERMON: "Brightly Colored Secrets"

PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC In Christ Alone ~Townend, Getty, Angerman
Sara Myers and Josh Schriver

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

SHARING AROUND THE TABLE OF REMEMBRANCE
(All are welcome around the table!)

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**SONG: "Soul On Fire"
~Third Day

**FINAL BLESSING

**"A Choral Benediction"

**POSTLUDE: A Festal Fanfare (Fourth Concerto) Bach/Thompson

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Portions of today's liturgy have been adapted the UCC's on-line resource: *Worship Ways. God of Awe and Glory: Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday* was written by the Rev. Dr. Renee C. Jackson, Southeast Area Minister for the Michigan Conference, UCC.

And from...

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This Is Amazing Grace

Verse 1

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Verse 2

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory the King above all kings

CHORUS

(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me

Verse 3

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory the King of Glory
+++++

Verse 4

Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory the King above all kings
The King of Glory the King of Glory
+++++

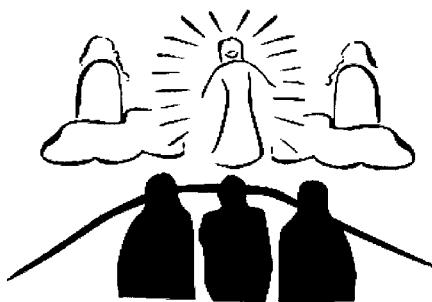
Bridge

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
+++++

Overwhelmed by Love

"Let us set up three tents..." [Peter] blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing. Mark 9:6

As Peter stood in reverent wonder
And saw the radiant Christ,
The sight was too profound to ponder;
No action could suffice.
To witness Moses as the Law;
Elijah, prophet true;
Filled the three with matchless awe,
And stunned, what could they do?
To witness that the Son of God
Had come to set all free
Left James and John and Peter awed
Beyond capacity,
So overwhelmed by Christ's bright glory,
Humbled to be a part,
And so should we by Love's sweet story
That touches every heart.
We only need believe and trust,
For death and sin to quell,
For God loves sinners just like us
And came with us to dwell.
We do not need to raise a place
To house our Savior dear;
Our hearts are home for saving grace:
The love of God lives here. Patti Miller



Turning your mistakes into spiritual maturity

Don't wait in ambush at the home of the godly, and don't raid the house where the godly live. The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked. —Proverbs 24:15-16

As a young entertainer, Will Rogers' stage specialty used to be rope tricks. One day, on stage, in the middle of his act, he became tangled in his lariat. But instead of becoming frustrated, Rogers laughed and spoke up in his Oklahoma drawl, "*A rope ain't so bad to get tangled up in if ain't around your neck!*"

The audience roared at his impromptu response. Encouraged by his warm reception, Rogers began adding commentary and satire to all his performances. It was his commentary, not his rope tricks, that eventually made him famous.

Had Rogers not become tangled in his rope that day, he might never have discovered his ability to wow crowds with his wit. That's because, very often, our mistakes open doors to new possibilities that we never imagined had things gone the way we originally intended.

Understanding this can give us a new perspective on our mistakes. When we begin to see our mishaps as opportunities to learn new things and gain new experiences, it completely transforms our outlook on our lives and ourselves.

Don't let your mistakes discourage you. Instead, look for what God is teaching you through them and go in new directions. Be willing to learn from your shortcomings and your mistakes will mature you!

Prayer Challenge

Pray that God would help you to learn lessons from your mistakes that would spur you on to spiritual maturity.

Questions for thought

Think of a mistake you've made in the past that has actually helped you. What would have happened if things had gone the way you originally planned?

How can seeing your mistakes as growth opportunities change the way you respond when things don't go your way?

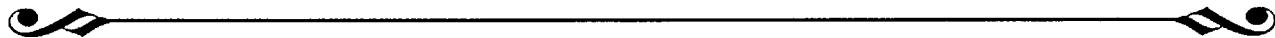




Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2024

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.
— Winston Churchill



Today's reading ends at verse 12. But something funny is going on in verse 16.

The prophet Elijah has just disappeared. A new prophet stands in the wings. A crowd of 50 preachers has witnessed the terrifying exodus as Elijah roared into the heavens in a chariot of fire and disappeared from view.

So, where was he? Whispers and rumors ran rampant through the community. Then someone said, "It may be that the spirit of the LORD has *caught him up and thrown him down* on some mountain or into some valley." Caught up and thrown down!

The crowd asks the newly minted prophet Elisha for permission to search for him. Elisha is facing his first decision as the head guy. He says no. But they persist and Elisha relents. Off they go on a fool's errand.

Elisha thinks they're nuts. The mountains behind Jericho are high, forbidding and vast. Where would one start? And across the Jordan it's not much different. What are a ragtag gaggle of preachers going to do? Start a grid search? Those preachers looked for their old mentor for three days and couldn't find him. At last, they returned to Elisha and said, "We couldn't find him." And Elisha uncharitably says, "I told you so."

The lessons for our consideration are:

1. Sometimes it's hard to let go and say goodbye;
2. Sometimes it is hard to accept new leadership and change;
3. Don't run after what God has removed;
4. Don't ask for permission unless you're prepared to obey;
5. Don't waste time on fruitless endeavors.

Although these prophets thought Elijah had been caught up and thrown down, they themselves were the ones who'd been caught up in their pride, and inevitably, thrown down in humiliation.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Thank you for the prophets, pastors and preachers among us who seek to warn, guard and feed us along life's way. Amen.

HOME TOUCH® Activity Page

Week of February 11, 2024

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Exodus 1-4
Monday: Exodus 5-7
Tuesday: Exodus 8-10
Wednesday: Exodus 11-13
Thursday: Exodus 14-17
Friday: Exodus 18-20
Saturday: Psalms 13-15

Verse to Remember
*I am the LORD your God, ...
you shall have no other gods
before me.*
—Exodus 20:2-3

February 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

The Life of Moses

DIRECTIONS: This week we begin readings in Exodus, and Moses is the prominent figure in this book. This puzzle reveals the name of a very important person in his life. Use the grid on the right to fill in the empty boxes on the left, which — when filled out correctly — will reveal the name of this person. Remember, only one of the letters derived from the top or the bottom clue is the correct one. We've done one box for you.

C2	D3	B1	D3	B4	C5
			I		
A5	E4	B2	E5	D4	A5



	A	B	C	D	E
1	G	R	T	J	E
2	P	K	C	B	W
3	Y	X	F	I	H
4	U	N	Z	A	O
5	M	D	S	V	L

Secret name? _____

INCOMPLETE PHRASES: Directions: Are you familiar with common American idioms and phrases? If so, this activity should be "a piece of cake."

1. A drop in the _____.
2. A diamond in the _____.
3. Barking up _____.
4. Abandon hope _____.
5. A multitude _____.
6. The ball is _____.
7. A horse, a horse, _____.
8. A labor _____.
9. Been there, _____.
10. A house divided _____.

Answers to INCOMPLETE PHRASES: 1. bucket, 2. rough, 3. the wrong tree, 4. ye who enter here, 5. of sins, 6. in your court, 7. my kingdom for a horse!, 8. of love, 9. done that, 10. against itself cannot stand.

Answer to Life of Moses: (spelled backwards): MAIRIM



2 Kings 2:1-12

W H I R L W I N D L H Z S Q Z X B R J P
J F K C A N D Z O E G N K A Q N E G K J
K S V T C Q V Y I F I I E R D P T M E T
M Z J Y T U A L S U W M L Z R C H Q V C
H G R A F L X H G C M H J G V Z E Y L S
Q A G E T E L V Y E H F I C A S L L E L
Y D J Y T H W O P D V A S H B L S U D M
I Q N I K S T L Z R N B R F Y N D J Y N
I F X N L P A P R I V E R I G K H K W I
N C D E M E G M Q P J Q K R O Y M F J V
N D G V U S J A Q C U V J U C T F T H U
I F N A N T H C C N E B Y H O Q J U M N
B O N E B S T D D S S G Y M L K E X U T
N V G H I N Q W B T N W C T H O T Q X Z
J L S L A P B K T P S B K N Q H Z L I V
A O E D Z K C D U L U Q T F N C F D M G
A M R S W M L T A Q C N P Y H I Q K A C
R O X S I E L G T N K O J D S R B C U Q
J S O L D O M M B D U P U H W E V I Z F
S T E H P O R P W H N N X K O J F W E U

Bethel

Chariot

Elijah

Elisha

Gilgal

Heaven

Jericho

Jordan

Loyalty

Master

Prophets

River

Whirlwind



PSALMS 50:1-6

E Y T Q P I S D M W G V C E F E F E V B P G Y L Q
U C T W J V J D B I N L F R R Q P S E Q N B A S O
J Q N H Q U L V E T I V U I Q W A A T I N L Z P H
L T V E G Q Z C P N G V F F S O U Q R O T G V X M
J F D N L I K Z O E A M B Y H T K E E S R N L J I
K F T H Y I M V P S R E L G Y T F I Q K Z M V U P
O C P Y M I S L T S A S M I Q F I E W A X J B L X
C L W Y B M R O A E T K H F O B A A I E C Q Z K T
S A C R I F I C E S U S E I I A J W F P Z K U I D
N R L O H U B G N B Q L V H N K L E H S A R U N J
X G N I M O C X L C U B E B U E L T T G N Q K J I
A K N Z O R C F O I P G P D H O S U U Z Y U L U J
Y T E S H Y H G V P U Y F U H L E J U O I N H Z X
N A J N N I P K Q E G L U W F U R I O U S I K V K
W O L K W S L C P T A L Z P R L C W W K D I T O P
H I L C K T E U O N Q S Z N S A E T X B T G J U Z
V I G T J H D P J A D P F T P M S A K T K R P S X
E D V U Y Y F M A N R N H H N H G L X J I X W O L
M Q D R E H T A G E V B P C I W S I R D Y N I Y X
G G M N Y F R W O V W W G Y A W L C Y J J B O V J
E E A R T H E W C O G Y B F A M Y J U E G R P J O
U C S O Y R R K V C E U D H K X L H K H Q G L E Z
M D D N P O G Y F I Z T S G M S P R X Q O L B D I
H B F N I W Z H C V Y G Z C G Y F V L J P Q B H O
I Z L A W U A J I V N I B I V A U F E J F B H H N

Almighty
Covenant
Fire
Judge
Sacrifice
Speaks
Witnesses

Beauty
Earth
Furious
Offering
Shines
Storm
Zion

Coming
Faithful
Gather
Raging
Silence
Whole

Mark 9:2-9



DISCIPLES

ELIJAH

FRIGHTENED

JAMES

JOHN

LISTEN

MOSES

MOUNTAIN

PETER

SHINING

TEACHER

WHITE