

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.  
May we together experience the presence of God*

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***We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord***

**Prelude**

**Welcome**



**Announcements/Joys & Concerns**

Today we gather on the hinge between the Ordinary Time or season after the Epiphany and the penitential season of Lent. This is the moment that prepares us for that journey, even as it steeled Christ for the path of suffering. Therefore, it is a day of declaration, when we, once again, claim Jesus Christ as our Lord. We see him as he is, in a way, in this moment of Transfiguration. The glory we spoke of last week and will speak again at his death and Resurrection, is revealed in a visible way in this mountaintop moment. We don't have to fully understand all that might be happening here, but we do have to look in awe and wonder at the glory of our God. Today is a day of celebration before a season of denial.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come together today in awe and wonder before the God we worship

**We also come burdened down with the worries of the world and the struggles of our individual lives.**

But in the midst of the worries and the struggles is God, our radiant source of love and hope.

**We worship together today in awe and wonder to worship the God who transforms our lives.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy God, mighty and immortal,**

**you are beyond our knowing,**

**yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ,**

**whose compassion illumines the world.**

**Transform us into the likeness of the love of Christ,**

**who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity,**

**the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,**

**who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE, UMH 451 “Be Thou My Vision”**

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**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that  
Thou art. Thou my best thought, by day  
or by night Waking or sleeping, Thy  
presence my light**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true  
word. I ever with Thee and Thou with  
me, Lord. Thou my great Father, and I  
Thy true son. Thou in me dwelling and I  
with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty  
praise  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and Thou only first in my heart  
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou  
art. High King of heaven, my victory  
won**

**May I reach heaven's joys, O bright  
heaven's sun. Heart of my own heart,  
whatever befall. Still be my vision, O  
ruler of all. Heart of my own heart,  
whatever befall. Still be my vision, O  
ruler of all**

***We Hear God’s Word***

**Gospel Reading..... Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)  
New Revised Standard Version**

***The Transfiguration***

*28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus[a] took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30 Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.*

*32 Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake,[b] they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,[c] one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.*

*34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35 Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen;[d] listen to him!” 36 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.*

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**FAITH HYMN UMH #396      "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

*Author: John Ernest Bode)*

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**1. O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou forever near me,  
my Master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.**

**2. O let me feel thee near me!  
The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.**

**3. O let me hear thee 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,  
thou guardian of my soul.**

**4. O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be.  
And Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.**

**"Message"**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**for Transfiguration Sunday**

**(Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36)**

Holy and loving God - whose nature and ways are far beyond our understanding, we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus - who lets us see your face in his, who shows us your love in his actions, your grace in his manner of being. In him too, O God, we see ourselves as you would have us be and as your power is able to make us. Make us more like him now, we pray... Lord hear our prayer.....

Lord - we often find ourselves weary, tired out by a load of care, a heap of responsibility and concern. We hunger and thirst, and often fail to stop to eat and drink at the table you have prepared for us. Lord, we are here now - and we ask you - grant us a glimpse of your glory - fill us with your spirit - refresh us and make us new ... Lord, hear our prayer.....

Loving God, we pray that your glory may fill your church and give to your people everywhere the energy to shine wherever there is darkness, disunity, persecution, or despair... Lord, hear our prayer....

Father, we pray for those we named in our sharing time and for all those whose names are upon our hearts. Grant to them health and wholeness, peace and joy, strength and hope... We remember before you:

(intercessions and petitions as shared in sharing time)

.... Lord, hear our prayer....

Give us all, O Lord, a greater love of your holiness, a greater delight in your mystery, and a greater joy in seeking your presence. We ask it through Christ Jesus, who revealed your will to us and who taught us to pray to you as one family, saying Our Father....

### **Departing Hymn UMH #395**

*Author: William D. Longstaff (ca. 1882)*

*Composer: Geoge C. Stebbins (1890)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

### **“Take Time to Be Holy”**

**1. Take time to be holy,  
speak oft with thy Lord;  
abide in him always,  
and feed on his word.  
Make friends of God's children,  
help those who are weak,  
forgetting in nothing  
his blessing to seek.**

**2. Take time to be holy,  
the world rushes on;  
spend much time in secret  
with Jesus alone.  
By looking to Jesus,  
like him thou shalt be;  
thy friends in thy conduct  
his likeness shall see.**

**3. Take time to be holy,  
let him be thy guide,  
and run not before him,  
whatever betide.  
In joy or in sorrow,  
still follow the Lord,  
and, looking to Jesus,  
still trust in his word.**

**4. Take time to be holy,  
be calm in thy soul,  
each thought and each motive  
beneath his control.  
Thus led by his spirit  
to fountains of love,  
thou soon shalt be fitted  
for service above.**

## **BENEDICTION**

In the coming week,  
may you experience the presence of God with joy.  
May the holy cloud comfort you.  
May the divine voice encourage you.  
May the power of the Spirit transform you,  
transform us,  
transform our world. Amen.

## **\*POSTLUDE**