
*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

Opening Meditation

Here we are, once again, at the cusp of a change in the season. Today we celebrate The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ as we move from Epiphany into Lent. Thus, today is a day of growing pains and crossing thresholds instigated by the shock of coming face-to-face with glory.

In many ways, we start and end this season after Epiphany with revelations of Jesus' fully divine and fully human nature. What we first encounter at the waters of baptism is further revealed in the Transfiguration.

The season of Epiphany is framed by light, and here on this Transfiguration Sunday the light is revealed, is given. Like the three disciples in that moment, we don't always know what to do with it, how to respond to it. But we know we want it; we want to dwell in it. We want that light to remove all the darkness from our lives. So, let us celebrate the light. Follow the light. Embrace the light.

Today let our worship bring forth the light. For the presence of Jesus is in our midst. Come, let us shine the light of His glory in our hour of praise and worship!

A Call to Worship

The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth (Psalm 50:1-2).

God's glory fills the earth, but sometimes we, like Elisha, do not think we are ready to encounter glory.

And yet, God's glory showed up anyway.

Sometimes we are like the disciples who witnessed Jesus' transfiguration and wanted to cling to that one glorious moment.

And yet, God called them down from the mountain.

So, we gather today, some of us feeling ready and some of us feeling wholly unprepared, yet all are called together to worship and to be led by glory out into the world.

God, may we perceive your glory all around us, pointing us in the way you would have us go. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**Mighty God, stay with us always, not only in our worship,
but as we share the risk and challenge of living our faith.
By your powerful Spirit, turn our fear to courage.
Your glory shines in the face of Christ; shine in our hearts and lives.
May your name be praise, glorious God! Amen.**

Praise Hymn UMH #371 "I Stand Amazed in the Presence"

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**1. I stand amazed in the presence
of Jesus the Nazarene,
and wonder how he could love me,
a sinner, condemned, unclean.**

Refrain:

**How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful
is my Savior's love for me!**

**2. For me it was in the garden
he prayed: "Not my will, but thine."
He had no tears for his own griefs,
but sweat-drops of blood for mine.
(Refrain)**

**3. In pity angels beheld him,
and came from the world of light
to comfort him in the sorrows
he bore for my soul that night.
(Refrain)**

**4. He took my sins and my sorrows,
he made them his very own;
he bore the burden to Calvary,
and suffered and died alone.
(Refrain)**

**5. When with the ransomed in glory
his face I at last shall see,
'twill be my joy through the ages
to sing of his love for me.
(Refrain)**

Gospel Reading..... Mark 9:2-9 (NRSV)

The Transfiguration

2 Six 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, 3 and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one[a] on earth could brighten them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved;[b] listen to him!" 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

9 As 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.

This is the Word of God, for the people of God, **Thanks be to God!**

Faith Hymn UMH #206 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Author: Kathleen Thomerson

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**1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain:

**In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]**

**3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]
serve and love thee best of all.**

Message

Joys/Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

We worship you, O God, with songs of praise. We worship you with words of prayer and with ears that listen for you to speak your saving truth into our lives.

We worship you in the silent spaces where we struggle for hope and for courage. We long for a glimpse of your glory: the glory that shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it; the glory that touches lives with a beauty so holy that it heals the wounded soul; the glory that gives strength to the weary.

We, who stumble and fall so often, worship you, longing for your light to shine upon us. Dazzle us with your holy love, draw us into your purifying presence, speak to us your transforming truth. Then, grant us grace to live every moment changed by such glory—daring to live with hope and courage and love reflecting the life of Jesus, through whom your glory shines in the most unexpected ways.

We come to you this day to raise our prayers of love, of healing, of kindness and compassion. (share the joys and concerns of the congregation)

Hear our prayers O Merciful Father, see the ones we hold to you in our hearts and guide us to do your will this day and every day. We come united in voice as we pray...Our Father...

Offertory/Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, as we remember Christ's transfiguration, we stand in awe of the glimpse of your glory revealed on the mountain. Just as Peter, James, and John witnessed the radiant presence of Christ, we, too, are transformed by your love and grace. As we offer our tithes and offerings, may these gifts reflect the warming light of your love in our lives. Just as Jesus was transfigured before them, may our hearts be transformed, and our actions reflect the love and truth Jesus embodies. Bless our giving and use it to bring your divine light to a world in need. In the name of Jesus, our Lord, we pray. Amen. (Mark 9:2-9)

Departing Hymn UMH 203 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Author: James Montgomery (1821)

Publication Date: 1989

Adapter and Harmonizer: W. H. Monk (1868, alt.)

Source: Gesangbuch der H. W.k. Hofkapelle, 1784

**1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

**2. He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in his sight.**

**3. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.**

**4. To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.**

BENEDICTION

Beloved, go now in the strength and power of what you have witnessed in this place knowing that the glory that leads us into transition also comforts us in our growing pains and sustains us as we take up our mantle and cross over to the other side. Amen.

Postlude