

**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**February 19, 2023**

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8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

*Prelude - Fanfare on Agincourt Hymn (Deo Gracias) - Charles Callahan*

***Call to Worship***

The Lord is Sovereign; let the people tremble in awe.

**God is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.**

The Lord is great in Zion, and is high above all peoples.

**Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God, and worship Yahweh upon the holy mountain.**

***Opening Hymn No. 64\*\* - Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty***

*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!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*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.*

***Invocation***

**God of glory and mercy, before his death in shame, your Son went to the mountain top and you revealed his life in glory. Where prophets witnessed to him, you proclaimed him your Son, but he returned to die among us. Help us face evil with courage, knowing that all things, even death, are subject to your transforming power. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION

*The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages*

### **Scripture Reading**

Psalm 99

The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The LORD is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name.

Holy is he!

Mighty King, lover of justice,

you have established equity;

you have executed justice

and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the LORD our God;

worship at his footstool.

Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

they kept his decrees,

and the statutes that he gave them.

O LORD our God, you answered them;

you were a forgiving God to them,

but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

Extol the LORD our God,

and worship at his holy mountain;

for the LORD our God is holy.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### **Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### **Anthem**

8:30 - *Agnus Dei* - Harold Darke

*Oh, lamb of god that taketh away the sins of the world have mercy on us. Grant us thy peace.*

11:00 - *Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake* – John Farrant  
*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake Lay not our sins to our charge,  
But forgive that is past, And give us grace to amend our sinful lives:  
To decline from sin and incline to virtue, That we may walk in a perfect heart,  
Before thee now and evermore.  
Amen.*

### **Children's Anthem**

11:00 - *Feed My Lambs* – Natalie Sleeth

### **God's Word for Young Disciples**

(Those in grades K-4 may be excused for Children's worship during the 11:00 service. They may be picked up in Asbury Hall.)

### **Scripture Reading**

Matthew 17:1-9

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.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** – *See Thee More Clearly*

Pastor Jon Priebe

### **RESPONSE**

*The people of God respond to the Word*

**Hymn of Response No. 454\*\*** - *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

*Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.*

*Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

### ***Discipleship Moment***

***Offertory*** - Meditation on Terra Beata- Charles Callahan

### ***Doxology\*\****

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### ***Prayers of the People/The Lord's Prayer***

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **SENDING FORTH**

*The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith*

### ***Closing Hymn No. 172\*\* - My Jesus, I Love Thee***

*My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;  
for thee all the follies of sin I resign.  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

*I love thee because thou hast first loved me,  
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;  
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;*

*if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

*In mansions of glory and endless delight;  
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

***Benediction and Choral Response*** - (Hymn No. 438)

**Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue; Thee, only Thee, resolved to know  
in all I think or speak or do.**

***Postlude - Jubilation*** - Jason Payne

**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given**

in loving memory of Bill Schmidt, by Lynda Schmidt and family;

in honor of the marriage of Jacob and Katie Davis, by Wally and Aimee Davis.

**Service Music:** 8:30 Epworth Choir; 11:00 Chancel Choir, Children's Choir

**Music:** One License A-731491

## CHURCH NOTES

**Pancake Breakfast TODAY:** Head up to Wesley Hall, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. this morning where the scouts from Troop 152 will serve a delicious breakfast as a thank you to the church for its continued support. The meal is free of charge, although donations would be gladly accepted.

**Ash Wednesday:** First Church and the other churches on Church Square will combine for worship next Wednesday, February 22, at 7 p.m. for an Ash Wednesday service. It will take place at First Christian Church and Pastor Karol Lewis will be preaching.

**Ushers:** We are looking for folks who would be willing to serve as ushers for the 11:00 service beginning the first Sunday in Lent (February 26.) It's an easy, but very necessary way of serving the church. It consists of passing out bulletins, helping folks to their seats if necessary, and passing the offering plates. Please contact Linda Demeter (740-334-9290) or the church office if you feel you'd like to serve in this way.

**Wednesday Men's Group:** Any men of the church and community are invited to attend the Wednesday Night Men's Group. It is modeled after John Wesley's "Class Meetings." They meet every other Wednesday from 7-8 pm in the parlor and **the next meeting will be on February 22.** Their purpose is to make themselves better disciples for Christ. They also have occasional group outings for their families. You may just come for the next meeting or if you would like more information you may contact Tom Hammonds at 330-322-8758.

**Febru“wear”y Sock Mission:** In the month of Febru “wear”y, The Acts of Grace Circle invites you to donate new socks which will be distributed to the folks who come to our monthly First Church Feeds. You may put the socks in the bin beside the church library.

**Easter Flowers:** Now is the time to order the flowers which will adorn our altar on Easter morning. The plants are \$9.00 each. The list of donors and those memorialized or honored will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please place your order in the offering plate and indicate the number of each plant that you are ordering. **The deadline is noon on Monday, March 6.**

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\_\_\_ Tulips      \_\_\_ Hyacinths      \_\_\_ Lilies      \_\_\_ Daffodils

In memory or honor of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

Donor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Lenten Studies:** We are offering two Lenten studies this year.

*The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence, will be the basis of the first study. We will use it to explore a life of worship. It will be led by Pastor Karol and done with the New Fellowship Sunday School class. It will begin next Sunday, February 26 at 9:45 a.m. and last for 6 weeks.

**A joint study** with our two neighboring churches will begin on Monday, February 27, at 7 p.m. It will take place at St. John's Episcopal and will be led by our 3 pastors and the pastors at the other 2 churches. It will last for 5 weeks.

**First Church Feeds Needs:** At our monthly distribution, we are often able to get items like soap, paper towels, and pet food from the Food Bank. However, personal hygiene items, especially bladder control products for men and women (such as Poise pads or disposable underwear) are frequently requested by our clients but are rarely available from the Food Bank. We would love to be able to offer these products on a regular basis, so we are requesting donations. Please drop off items in the bin behind the Welcome Center.

**Heart4theCity:** Heart4theCity is a mission church of the East Ohio Conference located in the Goodyear Heights neighborhood. They are currently asking for small electric kitchen appliances, bedding, and gloves (work style NOT cotton as they have enough of these currently) to be sold in the store they operate. Donations may be placed in the bin located outside the church library.

**Walk to Emmaus:** Have you taken part in the Walk to Emmaus, either locally or in a different state or country? We would like to put together a participant list of people who have. Please send Pastor Mike the following information: name, phone number, email address, and your Walk information.

**Weekday Christian Preschool:** Registration has begun for the 2023-2024 school year. We offer a Christian preschool program for children who will be 3, 4, or 5 years old by September 30, 2023. The program is state licensed and staffed with degreed lead teachers and trained teachers' assistants. We believe that learning takes place through discovery and play. Each classroom environment is child led and teacher facilitated. Our main objective is to foster a positive self-image in each child while nourishing their social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth.

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS this summer will be June 19 - 23 with morning sessions for preschool through 4th grade, a SERVE program of field trips and mission projects for 5th and 6th graders, and an afternoon extension program with activities and field trips called EXTREME. We are looking for people who are interested in spending time with our children either as a teacher or helper. We need a wide variety of skills for the different activities, so there are many opportunities for you to use your talents. Please contact Donna Curfman at [dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com](mailto:dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer.

**Alpha Study:** The Alpha study has an open invitation to anyone who wants to participate. Join the journey at any time - Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. in the library. As Jesus stated in John 1 to two of his disciples - "Come and see." Here are the subjects we will be spending time on in the next couple of months: Why Did Jesus Die? (2/21); How Can I Have Faith? (2/28); Why and How Do I Pray? (3/5). All are welcome!

## Next Steps

### Transfigured

*Matthew 17:2* –Peter, James, and John saw Jesus fully divine

*vs. 4* – Peter, then, sought to express his adoration and love

*vs. 13* – they could not stay on the mountaintop forever

### Day by Day

When we see Jesus more clearly, we can better love and follow him

“May I know Thee more clearly, Love Thee more dearly,  
Follow Thee more nearly.” - *St. Richard Wycke, Bishop of Chichester*

Questions for Reflection: After their mountaintop experience, these disciples are led down the mountain and into the crowds that needed Jesus’s help. Back to the busyness of their day-to-day and toward, they were told, the difficulty of witnessing their rabbi suffer in Jerusalem. In fact only Thomas spoke up among the twelve to say they should go and suffer with Jesus in Jerusalem. It would certainly be more tempting to remain on the mountain. What motivates my desire to follow Jesus and where am I willing to follow him? How am I tempted to stay on comfortable mountaintops rather than enter into the difficulties and suffering of others?

Question for Discussion: St. Richard’s prayer suggests that our ability to follow Jesus is dependent on our love for him, which is dependent on our seeing him. How do you make time for perceiving Jesus in your daily life?

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:5 – “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.*”

Readings for this Week: Exodus 33:21-23, Luke 9:18-23, Matthew 21:12-22



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
FEBRUARY 19, 2023**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller & John Fox

**HOSPITALIZED:**

**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Jim Bailey Behrman family Mark & Cindy Blaser Robert Boyd	Larry Brimlow Don Corbett Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes Phil Hennen	Gerald Lewis Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier David Townsend Mary & Ken Tunstall Marilyn Waller
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**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Family of member Jane Krejci on her death on 2/11.  
Bob Boyd & family on the death of his wife, member Patsy on 2/10.  
Family of member Gloria Roepke on her death on 2/12.  
Jerry Pecko & family on the death of his sister, Susan Ross on 2/7.  
Kay Sphar & family on the death of her brother, James Barker 2/5.