

*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 season of Lent. This is the moment that prepares us for that journey, even as it steeled Christ for the path of suffering. Therefore, today 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.

Today we come to 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.

The reality of our everyday life is that we live in a dark world. Despite the advances that man has made in areas such as medicine and technology, the world is a dark place. But the Christian is called to live by faith in the Word of God and not by sight.

The Word of God not only tells us of our salvation by grace through faith in Christ as Savior, but the Bible tells us the end from the beginning. It tells us that our faith is built on the witness of the apostles and prophets of God. And it tells us that our trust in God is built on a surer word of prophecy which is recorded in God's holy Word. Peter writes that we do well to take heed unto the written Word of God, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, for we read: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Peter saw the transfigured Lord on the holy mount with his own two eyes. For long ago, God spoke many times and in many ways to us through the apostles and prophets.

It is our responsibility to treasure the Word of God and keep its truth ever before us so that we too may recognize the prophetic times in which we live.

We are not children of this dark world but children of the light. So, let us shine that light for all to see and find their way. Let us come to the Lord this day as people transformed and worthy to worship him!

CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Mark 9:2-9, Matthew 17:1-9)

God, we come to the mountaintop to be covered in your presence.

**We are comforted by your holiness and your glow;
we are comforted by the hope of the mountain top,
where you are so close, so accessible,
where there is no doubt of your glory**

The mountain top reminds us why we worship you.

**We witness your bright power,
and your plan for the nations of the earth.**

As we prepare for worship,

God bring us to the mountain top;

**so that we may be inspired to do your work
in the valley below.**

CALL TO AFFIRM OUR FAITH

Let's go up the mountain.

Let's go up to the place where the land meets the sky

where the earth touches the heavens,

to the place of meeting,

to the place of mists,

to the place of voices and conversations,

to the place of listening.

Let us affirm our faith together:

**We believe in a God who is
never confined to our imagining,
is never in bondage to our beliefs,
and never held fast in our dwelling places.**

**Our God is the mystery of divine
and human bound together,**

of power and vulnerability, of crucifixion and resurrection.

Our God is the wonder of truth and compassion,

**of liberation and responsibility of
eternal wisdom and costly grace.**

**We celebrate this God who leaps free of all
our boundaries in love**

stretching out from horizon to horizon,

and in mercy bending deep into fragile human hearts.

AMEN

***HYMN OF PRAISE UMH #176**

"Majesty, Worship His Majesty"

Author: Jack Hayford (1981)

Publication Date: 1989

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Verse 1

**Majesty, worship His Majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise!
Majesty, Kingdom Authority,
Flow from His throne, unto His own
His anthem raise!**

**So exalt, lift up on high the Name of Jesus!
Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His Majesty;
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings!**

Verse 2

**Majesty, worship His Majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise
Majesty, Kingdom Authority
Flow from His throne, unto His own
His anthem raise.**

**So exalt, lift up on high the Name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His Majesty;
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings!**

We Hear God’s Word

Gospel Reading..... Matthew 17:1-9

New Revised Standard Version

The Transfiguration

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.”

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

Children’s Sermon

FAITH HYMN UMH #395

“Take Time to Be Holy”

Author: William D. Longstaff (ca. 1882)

Composer: George C. Stebbins (1890) Publication Date: 1989

**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.**

“Message”

TRANSFIGURATION PRAYER

Holy One,

We come before you,

many of us feeling like we have climbed just a part of the mountain,
and there is so much more of a climb left to even get to point
to dream that we might be dazzled by what is Divine.

Our loads are heavy,
with worry, with regret,
with fatigue, with illness,
with despair for all in the world
that is hurting, in danger, in bondage and more.

We trudge ahead, following you,
stumbling, hoping, praying...
breathing hard, hearts pounding, and yes,
even some of us are nimble and skipping.

Lead us Lord,
to the top of that mountain,
where we might be dazzled by your Light,
lifted by what is Divine,
filled by the sheer delight
of what is numinous and ethereal and grounded and real.

We pray this,
for ourselves, for one another,
and for the worlds in which we live in.
As we join in the prayer your beloved Son taught us to pray...Our Father

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology (Wykoff only)

Offertory Prayer

Creator God of infinite patience, we see you in every plant that grows and blossoms, every creature that runs or flies, in mountains and sunsets and in every drop of rain that falls. As we share our offerings today, we pray you, through Jesus, will continue the work of creation in us, that we might become more tolerant, more forgiving, more generous, and more loving. In that name, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we pray. Amen. (Matthew 17:1-9)

Departing Hymn UMH #389 "Freely, Freely"

Author: Carol Owens (1972)

Publication Date: 1989

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**God forgave my sin in Jesus' name
I've been born again in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to
He said, "Freely, freely you have received
Freely, freely give
Go in my name, and because you believe
Others will know that I live"**

**All power is givin' in Jesus' name
In earth and Heaven in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His power as He told me to
He said, "Freely, freely you have received
Freely, freely give
Go in my name, and because you believe
Others will know that I live"**

Benediction

May the Creator who brings light from darkness,
The Spirit who transfigures our torments,
And the Christ who lifts up valleys and brings the mountain's glory down to earth, make
the rough places plain before you and bless you this day and always.
Go forth, sisters. Go forth, brothers. Do not be afraid.

***POSTLUDE**