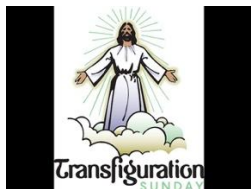


*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.  
May we together experience the presence of God*

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



### **Prelude – Welcome - Announcements**

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 and love 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**

***We Hear God's Word***

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

**The Transfiguration**

17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until 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**

**"Message"**

**Joys/Concerns**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**for Transfiguration Sunday**

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 - 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 ...

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)

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 our Lord Amen

### **Offertory/Doxology/Prayer**

Transforming God, we come to your altar this morning, knowing that in our giving and in our living, we have often put "just enough" into living our faith so as not to impact our lifestyle or cause too much discomfort. We have been reluctant to let go of our affinity for the things of this world; and in our attachments, we have often missed the opportunity for the transformed lives you desire for us. May our offering this morning be an invitation to living a life radically transformed by your power, love, and grace. We pray this in the mighty love of Jesus. Amen.

### **Departing Hymn**

### **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**