
~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OURSELVES~

***OFFERTORY PRAYER: (UNISON)**

All: 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. Creation is not something that happened, but something that is happening every day. As we share our tithes and 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.

***CLOSING HYMN:**

~ GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD/BENEDICTION~

L: "Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

All: May the light of Christ make us bold in words and deeds as we go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

Pastor: Go now, and speak of what you have seen of God's glory. Do not cling to the holy moments when heaven overshadows you, but as the Lord lives, listen to Christ and follow him from the places of revelation to the places of mission.

And may God shine the light of glory into your hearts. May Christ be with you and never leave you. And may the Spirit renew the image of God within you. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord

POSTLUDE:



5th AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Avenue ~ West Bend WI 53095

Transfiguration Sunday~ February 19, 2023

The story of the Transfiguration is not simply about learning to leave the mountaintop, or about releasing what we have grown attached to. It's not just about resisting our desire to turn moments of transcendence into monuments. The story of the Transfiguration is about opening our eyes to glory, allowing that glory to alter us, and becoming willing to walk where it leads us. The story urges us to trust that what we have seen, what we have known, will go with us. It assures us that the gifts received on the mountaintop will continue to illuminate us not only on level ground but even when we walk in the valley of the shadow. - Jan Richardson



, Liturgist
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE
Sundays, 9:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVE. UMC

Whether you're just beginning to explore your faith or have been following Christ for years, you and your whole family can belong at Fifth Ave. UMC

*Note: L: denotes worship "Leader" ~ P: denotes "People"

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

ORGAN PRELUDE:

~WELCOME~

GREETING:

Pastor: People of God, let's go up the mountain! To the place of voices and conversations, to the place of listening. At the Transfiguration, God, showed Jesus in glory, a glimpse of what His disciples would see in His risen life. We come seeking to be blessed this morning with an abundant awareness of God's presence. Come as we witness the dazzling splendor- God of the high mountain. Come, all are welcome!

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-339-7673;
Email - pastor@faumc.org

~5th AVE. JUNCTION - WHERE FAITH AND FAMILY COME TOGETHER~

~COME, LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER~

CENTERING MUSIC:

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Unison)

All: 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; bring us to the mountain top so that we may be inspired to do your work in the valley below.

* PRAYER of CONFESSION:

L: Peter, James, and John went up on the side of a mountain with Jesus and experienced glory. But then Peter wanted to stay. "It's good for us to be here. Let's get comfortable." We are also often tempted to keep the experience of the Divine to ourselves, to enjoy the company of the saints instead of going back down the mountain to continue the work of the Kingdom of God. God knows this temptation of our hearts, so let us confess and pray for forgiveness.

P: God of glory and light, forgive us when we are complacent and comfortable with keeping the riches of your love to ourselves. Keep calling us down from our mountains of privilege. Keep expecting more of us as your disciples. Keep reminding us to listen to your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

L: Whether we hear a voice from the heavens or a still small voice in our hearts, listen carefully for the love of God. Believe and accept God's love and live in God's freedom.

P: We believe! We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*HYMN:

~WE PROCLAIM~

* Matthew 17:1-5 ~ Six days after Peter had acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God, 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!"

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **P: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON:

"The Transfiguration Story"

Pastor Clarissa

~ THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SACRED MEAL~

Pastor: This is the table of our Lord, a fellowship that endures history and the trials of our past, present and future with an invitation that rings out through communities and creation, calling you to come as you are. Come because you are beloved and invited, whether you know it or not, feel it or not. Come and be fed; come and find healing; come and be renewed for the journey ahead. Come and know that the Lord invites sinner and saint, oppressor and oppressed, colonizer and colonized, Indigenous and displaced, the corporate CEO and the migrant farmer, the bold and courageous and, the fearful and complacent, for we are one humanity, all children of our Creator, all in need of forgiveness and bread.

Once the Table is set with the gifts of our hearts and hands, we remember God's extraordinary gift of welcome and love, and we ask that once again the ordinary things of life—bread, wine, ourselves—would be vehicles of that welcome.

L: The Lord be with you.

All: And also, with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time, you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon and stars; earth, wind and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, male and female, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away. And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so, this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity lifting our voices to you as we sing:

All: Holy, holy, holy.

My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words:

You are holy, Lord!

Pastor: Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were

heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is the cup of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now, gathered at your table, O God of all Creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new Creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet of the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ. By him and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

All: Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us the strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

