

 **Saint Stephens UCC**
Where God is still speaking,



FEBRUARY 15, 2026 | 9:00 AM | TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON
LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

Technical Directors: Jody Meyer, Corey Dornbrack
Organist: Darlene Johnson
Music Director: Tiffany Bucheger
Faith Formation Director: Kari Weiland

On most Sundays, children will begin in worship and be dismissed to their Sunday School classes after the "Time for All Ages."

For those children staying in worship, please use the bookmarks available to mark the pages for today's hymns. Go through the bulletin with your children and circle the things in which they might be interested (Children's time, hymns, helping with the offering). Mark the bulletin with symbols for when it is time to be quiet and listen, join in the hymn, read a prayer aloud, etc.

Busy Bags are available in the church entryway. Quite often, children can absorb what is going on in church if their hands are occupied and their minds do not have to focus so much on "behaving." It takes a great deal of energy and concentration for a child to stay quiet and still. Please use the busy bags to occupy their hands so they are free to listen. Nudge them when it is time for a hymn and ask them to sing along with you. Encourage them to come forward for the *Time for All Ages* and to participate in presenting the offering.

WORDS TO PONDER PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Marilynne Robinson, Gilead, 21st century

"The moon looks wonderful in this warm evening light, just as a candle flame looks beautiful in the light of morning. Light within light...It seems to me to be a metaphor for the human soul, the singular light within that great general light of existence."

*** Invites those comfortably able to do so to stand.**

Quick and Easy Electronic Giving!!

To give an offering to the church, text **"SAINTSTEPHENS" to 73256** to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. **OR Scan the QR Code** to be connected to our website.



SOMETHING TO INSPIRE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to me and wait. I will give you instructions and commandments in written form.

**We come to you and we wait,
to see and hear what you will say.**

In days past, I wrote on stone tablets, but now I write my words upon your heart that you may teach them.

**We offer our hearts to receive your words
and what we learn, we'll teach others.**

Heaven is open above you and the kin-dom is within you.

All: Wherever we go, the kin-dom comes.

* OPENING HYMN

"Jesus, Take us to the Mountain"

Pg 6

Words: ©Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991, alt.

Music: Carl. F. Schalk, 1991; © 1991 by GIA Publications

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SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

LESSON FROM THE TORAH

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

GOSPEL LESSON

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. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As 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 good news.

In these words we find eternal life.

MESSAGE

ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONS FOR THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Morgan as he lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

* PRESENTATION HYMN *"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"* #75

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES, CANDLE & SHELL

BENEDICTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

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Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991; alt.

*Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36;
John 19:30; Matt. 27:50-54; Mark 15:37-39*

Unison

1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain, where, with Pe - ter, James, and John,
2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com-pan - ions saw?
3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis - ci - ples heard?
4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain where we see you glo - ri - fied,
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as - cend - ed Christ,

We are daz-zled by your glo - ry, light as blind-ing as the sun.
Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there fills us with the self - same awe.
Once a - gain the voice from heav - en says of the In - car - nate Word:
Where you shout-ed, "It is fin - ished!" where for all the world you died.
Can - not help but tell the sto - ry, all that you have sac - ri - ficed;

There pre - pare us for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.
Clothed in flesh like ours you go matched to meet our dead - liest foe.
"Lis - ten, lis - ten, ev - ery-one, this is my be - lov - ed One!"
Hear the stunned cen - tu - ri - on: "This was God's be - lov - ed One!"
Say with Pe - ter, James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed One!"

Both text and tune were commissioned by St. Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Maryland, to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary. The hymnwriter, Jaroslav Vajda, tells of being "as much at a loss for words contemplating the glory of the transfigured Christ as were the disciples."

Tune: SILVER SPRING 8.7.8.7.7.7.
Carl F. Schalk, 1991
Alternate tune: IRBY

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TRANSFIGURATION

182 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
 flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the -
 faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

TAKING THE LESSONS HOME

Today's readings include the central biblical images of **light** and **mountain**.

We often forget, however, that a cloud is often a sign of the presence of God in scripture. The people of the Exodus knew God was present with Moses because of the cloud. God spoke about Jesus out of the cloud.

The clouds today can remind us that God showers us with grace just as the clouds rain down on the fields and lawns.

Talk with your children about the times clouds can be a gift—shade on a hot day, keeping the sun out of your eyes when playing ball or a warning that rain might be coming and it is time to get somewhere safe.

When have you or others in your family felt God's presence on sunny days, cloudy days and snowy days? Talk about the ways you know or feel God is close to you.

THANK YOU!

Musicians today are Terry Krueger and Darlene Johnson.

Altar Flowers are in honor of Morgan's baptism.

Livestream is sponsored by David and Cheryl Buck in memory of Cheryl's parents, Alvin & Yvonne Lazotte.



We joyfully celebrate the baptism of Morgan Golisch. "May God's grace guide you, protect you, and shower you with endless blessings."