



Traditional
February II

Beloved
Taken
Blessed
Broken
GIVEN

Today's Sanctuary flowers provided by Pam & Lewis Flanigan to the glory of God in honor of their anniversary.

Today's choral selections are provided by the Temple Choir under the direction of Joan Nevill. Organist: Barbara Waite. Additional & special Music by Temple Brass.

Ushers February 11: Greg & Linda Stilwell, captains; Chuck Taylor, Jacque Hardin, Dick Osmon, Nelson & Joyce Rivers

Ushers February 18: Eric Eades, captain; Seby Durgy, Chuck Taylor, Ronnie Pursley, Thornton Patberg (balcony), Margo Borre (balcony)

Greeters February 11: Marty Van Stone, Betty Schofield, Carla Bolin

Greeters February 18: Warren & Rosemary Heinsohn, Janet Kissel, Lila Allen

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Temple Brass

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Royal Oak M." by B. Bennett

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: Like the disciples, we want to please God in word and deed.
People: Jesus is the Son, the Beloved; may we listen to him!
Leader: Like the disciples, we want to have the right answers.
People: Jesus is the Son, the Beloved; may we listen to him!
Leader: Like the disciples, we sometimes think our ways are better than God's ways.
People: Jesus is the Son, the Beloved; may we listen to him!
Leader: We are disciples of Jesus Christ.
People: May we follow the One who leads us into life.

CHORAL INTROIT "Morning Has Broken" arr. by J. Carter

***CHIMES & SERVICES OF LIGHT**

***HYMN** "We Have Come At Christ's Own Bidding"

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**
Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Please turn to those around you and pass the peace of Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC Temple Brass

CALL TO PRAYER
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray as one.

PASTORAL PRAYER
All: Living God, we confess that we have tried to tame You. We have decided that serving our own interests best serves You. We have mistaken worldly "success" for the joy only You can bring. Forgive us. Call us away from the temptation to put You in a box, and instead, burst forth in our hearts. And now, O God, hear us as we pray, each in our own hearts and our own ways...

LORD'S PRAYER
Matthew 6:9-13 "Pray then like this: '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 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.'"

GIVING TITHES & OFFERING Temple Brass

***DOXOLOGY** *The congregation stands as the Ushers return the offering to the Altar.* #95 in Hymnal

ANTHEM "Set Me As A Seal" by Clausen

KIDZ MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READINGS Mark 9:2-9
The Transfiguration
2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

FAITH WE SING #2086 "Open Our Eyes"

MESSAGE by Pastor JillAnn Knonenborg "Transfiguration"

Good morning. So picture this for me. You're back in high school on a class camping trip. And one day of the trip your teacher takes you and a couple of other students on a hike. The weather is great you can see for miles. When you reach the top of the hill, you all sit down for your picnic lunch. At which point your teacher pops open the front of his shirt and heroic music starts to play and he changes into his super suit to fly off into the sky to battle a super-villain.

Welcome to transfiguration Sunday. Will you pray with me? Gracious God as I strive to deliver your message this morning. May you increase and we decrease for it is written that it is only by losing our lives that we find them. Amen.

As Andy mentioned earlier, in the church calendar there's a 40 day journey to Easter which we call Lent, and that starts this Wednesday. Please come to Ash Wednesday service. But on the Sunday before Lent starts we always read this bizarre story called The Transfiguration of Jesus. In it the disciples discover that this cool Rabbi they've been following around for three years is more than just another itinerant preacher. He is the promised Messiah- the Son of God who will save them and the world from the evil. I've preach Transfiguration Sunday a few times but until this year I never thought about why we put this story before Lent. Why as we move toward the cross and then to Easter is it important for us to be reminded of this mountaintop revelation when there are so many mountaintop revelations in the Bible? You could say that in the Bible mountains are where you go to meet God. So why this one? As I thought about that question, oddly I found myself looking less at what happens to Jesus in this story and more at the disciples who saw it all.

Peter, in particular, is a my absolute favorite biblical character. Before he chose to follow Jesus, he was a poor fisherman working in a rural area called Galilee with his brother Andrew. So we have pretty different backgrounds, and yet I relate to Peter so much. He's well-intentioned, dedicated, and he always speaks before he thinks. Peter is that guy at your dinner party who fills every silence before it even has a chance to get awkward. And at this point in the story on the mountaintop he's probably in his early 20s so I relate to that too #Jesuswasayouthpastor. It's true. I also relate to Peter's task oriented mindset. He wants to be productive to serve Jesus through action. And Jesus must not think that's a totally horrible idea because earlier he instructed Peter to found Christ's church. But one of my first bosses told me that different scenarios call for different metrics. Here on the mountain Peter's can do attitude might actually get in the way of following Jesus. I mean what's his first response to witnessing this miracle? Jesus's godhood is revealed, profits are resurrected, and what is Peter's first instinct? To come up with a three point building plan. The Holy Spirit is doing amazing things right before his eyes, and Peter wants to put her in three tiny dwellings. He wants to wrestle the miraculous down to a manageable, controllable size; and I think I know why Peter is in crisis management mode. He's noticed an important detail- those dazzling white robes that Jesus is wearing. Stark white robes are what martyrs wear. In the same moment that Jesus reveals he is God, He reveals that he will also soon die the death of a martyr which does not make any conventional sense. An all powerful god can't willingly go to his own execution. That's not what power looks like, is it? Jesus is confounding expectation and Peter needs him to play by the rules. It's not the first time. Throughout scripture, God is untamable; yet God's people keep trying to lock him up in a box or a temple. They keep trying to take laws that God gave us to make our lives better and use them to exclude or shame people. And yet, God is always pushing against the box. God continues to show up in places and with people that we don't expect. God defies our expectations our comfort zones.

There's a reason that the two primary symbols Christians use for the Holy Spirit are fire and a dove. Fire- warm, wild, powerful, catching. The dove- beautiful gentle, reaching heights that we human beings could never dream of reaching. Fire and dove. That's the God we're working with here; and there's also a reason that the symbol for the Holy Spirit is not a Google Calendar. Which I don't handle so well because I'm a control freak. I want charts and Excel spreadsheets and quarterly projections. I mean I'm a Methodist. My solution to every problem is to form a committee. It would be great if on Mondays God could send me his color coded schedule so that I could pencil in numerical twelve forty five on Wednesday. I do not have the time for a God who might pop in without an appointment, who might need my attention out of the blue. I've got my prayer time set aside at night, why can't God transform my heart mind and soul in those 15 minutes? If I can't control God, it means I just have to trust God. It means all I can do to be faithful is hop on for the ride. What was God's response to Peter's strategic plan? A voice comes from heaven. This is my son the beloved. Listen to him. Listen. Don't plan. Don't micromanage. Don't run cost benefit analyses and evaluative metrics. Just listen deeply to the voice of Christ and you will receive everything you need.

My therapist tells me that control is the way we make ourselves feel safe. By reducing God to a sympathetic Santa Claus in the sky, by reducing discipleship to a checklist, by reducing church to what we do on Sunday morning, we protect ourselves from the radical vulnerability and unpredictability of true faith. Listening to God wherever and in whomever we find Him is not a position of control. It is in fact an opening up of ourselves to the unknown- to change. If we are to be faithful when the holy spirit moves in some wild unexpected direction, we've just got to chase after it. And let me be clear, I don't think listening means doing nothing, waiting for God to perform a magic trick so we can cheer about it. Because you know Jesus feeds the disciples doing immediately after the story that and you read? He tells them to go back down the mountain. Heal the sick and feed the hungry. It's an important reminder to me that He doesn't tell them to increase church membership or worship attendance. If we want to follow Jesus, if in other words we want to live life as it was meant to be, the first step is to listen to what Jesus is saying. Like the anxious priest Samuel, we declare here I am Lord. Your servant is listening.

I think Lent is a time for us to intentionally listen, to strip away the noise and access so that we can hear God whispering transformation. Unfortunately our culture does not teach us how to listen. In fact it teaches us the contrary it teaches us to hear the other person only long enough to explain how they are wrong. If you don't believe me just turn on any major news network for approximately 10 seconds. Listening is quite different than that. Listening means receiving without judgment- absorbing the message deep into your heart and letting it stir within you. Both what was said and what was left unsaid. I confess I'm only now beginning to learn how to listen. Like any skill it's something we have to practice to get good at. So our challenge this week, our opportunity to grow in faith will help us to practice: once or maybe twice this week when you find that you have a free five minutes because you're washing your hair in the shower or you're waiting for somebody to get in the car or a meeting finished early; however you manage it, take those five minutes to feel grounded and present when and where you are.

It sounds silly but my trick is to focus on the breath that's coming in and out of my nose. And once you are as present as you can manage in that moment, focus on listening- just listening with your ears and with your heart. You might just witness God do a miracle.

of living and of giving as we prepare for a Holy Communion. May we be in full communion with God this day. Amen.

***HYMN #704** "Steal Away"

***CHIMES & SERVICE OF LIGHT**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Finale" by J. Correll