



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Pastor Leslie Latham

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

February 14, 2021

10:00am

Transfiguration Sunday

DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude

Call to Worship:

On mountaintops and in valleys,

The glory of God surrounds us.

In whispers and in shouts,

The glory of God speaks to us.

In nature's variety and color,

The glory of God calls to us.

In baptism's claim and communion's welcome,

The glory of God comes home to us.

Let us worship God!

Gathering Prayer

Suddenly they saw him the way he was,
the way he really was all the time,
although they had never seen it before,
the glory which blinds the everyday eye
and so it becomes invisible.

This is how he was, radiant, brilliant, carrying joy
like a flaming sun in his hands.

This is the way he was—is—from the beginning,
and we cannot bear it.

So he manned himself, came manifest to us;
and there on the mountain
they saw him, really saw him, saw his light.

We all know that if we really see him we die.

But isn't that what is required of us?

Then, perhaps, we will see each other, too.

~Madeleine L'Engle, from *The Irrational Season*

AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Confession:

God alone is righteous; God alone is perfect; God alone is judge. Yet this holy, righteous God comes to us in love, to save us. Rejoicing in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, you are dazzling in your glory, but we are no longer amazed. Forgive us when we explain away your miracles, or try to contain your mystery. Open us again to your holiness, and give us a glimpse of your true glory, that in your mercy, we may shine forth in love.

Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Our God comes and does not keep silence; God speaks to us with grace and love, saying: You are my beloved child. This is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Peace

Gloria Patri

LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prayer for Illumination

Speak to us, O Lord our God, and let the fire of your Spirit burn brightly in our hearts. Open our minds to receive the wisdom of the law, the hope of the prophets, and the life of the gospel: Jesus Christ, your living Word. Amen.

Scripture Lessons:

2 Kings 2:1-12

Mark 9:2-9

Sermon:

The Rev. Leslie Latham

RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Hymn: "Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud"

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Pastoral Prayer**The Lord's Prayer**

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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

The Offertory "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Naomi Boyle

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the light of love around us and the fire of faith within us. As we go forth from this place let our lives reflect the One who is the image of your glory: Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

Hymn: "We Are Standing on Holy Ground"

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Charge

God sends us from this sacred space.

**We will go to share the good news of grace,
to offer healing to the broken.**

Jesus would not have us stay here forever.

**We will go to find our sisters and brothers
in the valleys of injustice and the neighborhoods of addiction.**

The Spirit fills us with the gifts we need as we leave.

**We will go to help rebuild the lives of those around us,
to share feasts of hope and peace with everyone.**

Benediction

The very face of God shines upon you with beauty, blessing, and peace. Alleluia!

Postlude