

First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

Transfiguration of the Lord

CCLI License # 2839486

February 19, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

It is good to be here in this sacred space,
in the shelter of God's love and hope.

It is good to be here with folks we know well, as well as with new friends,
joining with all of God's beloved, sisters and brothers of Jesus.

It is good to be here, where we can hear God's voice,
calling us to be eyewitnesses to the Spirit's presence.

GATHERING PRAYER

God of majesty and might, you have blessed us with revelations of your glory. Give us the gift of faith, that we may hear your voice for ourselves and see Jesus Christ revealed to us that we may stand on our own without fear. Amen.

***HYMN: "Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain" #193**

UNSER HERRSCHER

CALL TO CONFESSION

We wait for God to show up, and while waiting, do not notice the words we might have spoken, the good we could have done. Let us confess to our God, who waits to surround us with grace and hope, as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our judgment often becomes clouded by our foolishness, Sheltering God, and so we make all the wrong choices. We let fancy philosophies draw us away from your grace. The flowery words of politicians can lead us into valleys of worry and despair. Our fears can convince us that those around us are conspiring against us.

You can take all our foolishness, Creative God, and make us wise enough to see you among us. You take the shards of our broken lives to recast us into a faithful people. You speak gently to us, so we can listen to your dream that we might see each person as your beloved, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, sees us through such eyes.

Silence is kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

On mountaintops and in valleys, in moments when our lives are shrouded and as well as when we reflect Christ's light, God is with us, declaring we are the beloved!

In this moment, in every moment, may we glimpse the grace of God which comes and transfigures our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God our light, make us attentive to your Word as to a lamp shining in a dark place, that seeing your truth we may live faithful lives until that great day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Exodus 24:12-18

¹²The 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.' ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To 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.'

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The 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. ¹⁷Now 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. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Transfiguring: Becoming More Like Jesus

Psalm 99

¹The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

²The LORD is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

³Let them praise your great and awesome name.

Holy is he!

⁴Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool.

Holy is he!

⁶Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

⁷He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

⁸O LORD our God, you answered them;

you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

⁹Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;

for the LORD our God is holy.

Matthew 17:1-9

¹Six 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 dazzling white. 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 make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁵While 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!' 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 looked up, 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.'

SERMON: "Mountaintop Experiences"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Open the Eyes of My Heart" #452

OPEN THE EYES

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Our God has revealed to us a law and a love that leads us into becoming God's own daughters and sons. Therefore, let us gratefully give from that which has first been given to us, our lives, our talents, and our possessions.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "In the Bleak Midwinter (vs 4) #144

CRANHAM

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us not keep our treasures stored in the mountaintops of our fears, worrying about how others might use them, but let us pour them out so they might be used to transform all those who find themselves in the valleys of hunger, of loss, of loneliness, and of injustice. This we ask in the name of your Beloved. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: "Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining" #192**

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

CHARGE

God sends us from this experience of worship to serve all those around us.

We will go to take the light of hope into the shadowed corners in our midst.

Jesus, the Beloved, invites us to join him in everyday life, in everyday service.

We will go to be blessed by all those overlooked by the world.

Glory's Spirit takes us by the hand to lead us down path of humility.

We will enter into the mists of mistrust, so we can offer hope to many.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact

Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.

- Prayers for healing for Mackintosh Barker.
- Prayers for healing for Tom Dugan.
- Prayers for Marlene Tyrrell and her family in the recent passing of her nephew, Gerald Tyrrell.
- Prayers for healing for Bob and Diane Eshelman.
- Prayers for healing for Lori, friend of Sue Schurr, who is at Sisters Hospital in ICU.
- Prayers for Erik's friend, Melissa.
- Prayers for Gilbert Laub's brother, Phillip, who suffered a stroke.
- Prayers for Derick Blake for healing.
- Prayers for continued healing for Marlene Tyrrell.
- Prayers for continued healing for Shirley Hagle.
- Prayers for the people of Turkey and Syria displaced by the earthquakes, and for those first responders working with them.
- Prayers for peace and refuge for Ukraine, and for all refugees.

CALENDAR

Sunday, Feb 19

- 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages (Classrooms)
- 10:30 am Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, Feb 20

- 10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
- 6:00 pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, Feb 21

- 9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
- 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday Supper Church (Parlor)

Wednesday, Feb 22

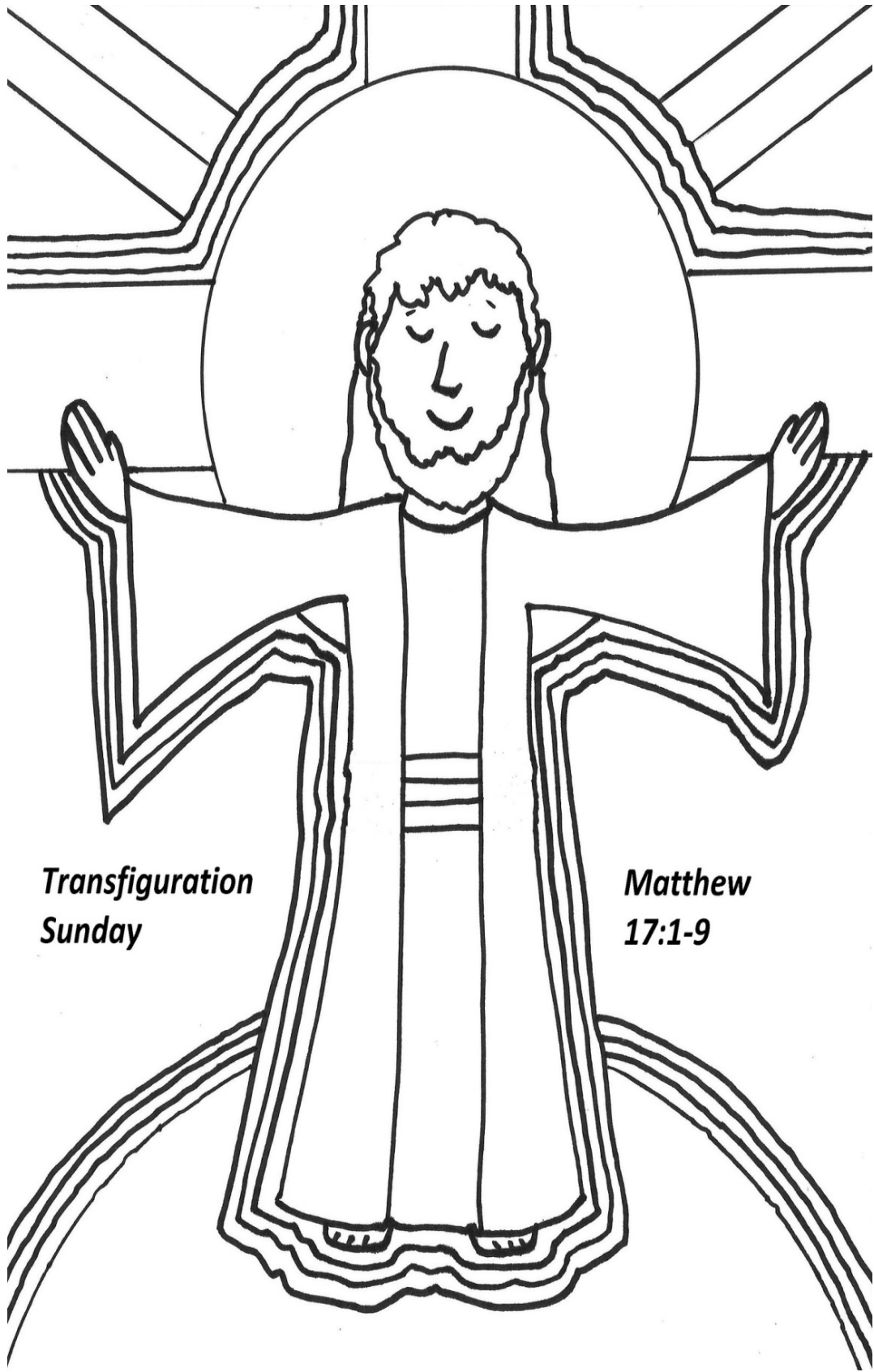
- 9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
- 5:30pm Ash Wednesday Supper Church (Parlor)

Thursday, Feb 23

- 9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
- 10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
- 6:00pm Hearts4Worship (Parlor)
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Parlor)
- 6:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, Feb 25

- 10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)



*Transfiguration
Sunday*

*Matthew
17:1-9*