



First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM FEBRUARY 11, 2024

* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit
(PH denotes The Presbyterian Hymnal
STF denotes Sing the Faith Hymnal)

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

“What you seem to be, be really.”

Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard’s Almanack, 1744

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beyond our busyness, above the cold winter floor
there is a glory rising born of heaven and reaching out to
each one of us

People: A light that shines through the clouds
an invitation seeking all of who we are
that transfigures the world

Leader: that transforms darkness into hope
that brings life from a cross
where old life ends and new life is born

People: In glory Jesus meets us here
raising us from depths of valley to the height of the mountain
carrying the weight of our humanity to the heights of
heaven’s glory.

ALL: Let us worship from the mountain and hear again
“This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”

* HYMN PH #275

“God of Our Life”

*God of our life, through all the circling years,
We trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.*

*God of the past, our times are in Thy hand;
With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land;
Be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.*

*God of the coming years, through paths unknown
We follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;
Our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

God of mountaintops, the din of the world can harden our hearts to your Word. We watch news, reality TV, silly shows - yet have trouble bearing witness to your presence in our lives. Our faith is placed in those who fail us, our trust is given to those who misplace it.

Forgive us, Revealer of Mystery. You offer mercy to us, so we might hear your call to discipleship. You whisper our names, so we might know how loved we are. Caught by the surprise of your never-ending joy in us, how can we not follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, onto the mountaintops of worship and into the valleys of sacrifice and service!

(A Time of Silent Prayer follows)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts,
God knows us better than we know ourselves,
and God forgives us when we
cannot forgive ourselves.

ALL: By God's mercy, we are forgiven;
by God's mercy, we are made whole;
by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others.
Thanks be to God.

***SUNG RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS** *Christ's Body All Are We* (TUNE: MADRID)

Christ's Body all are we: Alleluia! Amen!

Connected, yet still free, Alleluia! Amen!

We strive for unity, so peace the church may see

Christ, our affinity! Alleluia! Amen!

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

CHOIR ANTHEM *"The Lord Will Be My Shepherd"* by Don Besig and Nancy Price

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Mark 9:2-9

Leader: 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, and his clothes became
dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.
And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with
Jesus.

People: 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."
He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Leader: Then a cloud overshadowed them,
and from the cloud there came a voice,
"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

People: Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

ALL: As they were coming down the mountain,
he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen,
until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (The Message Version)

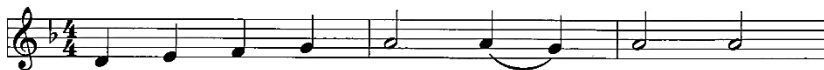
If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention. All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get.

Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

MESSAGE "Who, What and When?"

2153

Transform Us



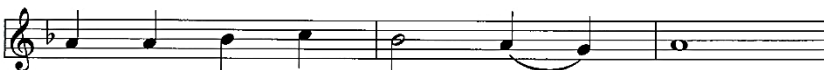
1. Trans-form us as you, trans - fig - ured,
 2. Trans-form us as you, trans - fig - ured,
 3. Trans-form us as you, trans - fig - ured,



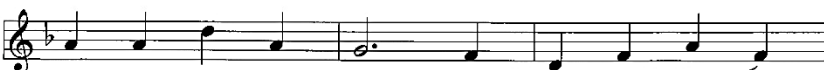
stood a - part on Ta - bor's height.
 once spoke with those ho - ly ones.
 would not stay with - in a shrine.



Lead us up our sa - cred moun - tains,
 We, sur - round - ed by the wit - ness
 Keep us from our great temp - ta - tion—



search us with re - veal - ing light.
 of those saints whose work is done,
 time and truth we quick - ly bind.



Lift us from where we have fall -
 live in this world as your Bod -
 Lead us down those dai - ly path -



en, full of ques - tions, filled with fright.
 y, chos - en daugh - ters, chos - en sons.
 ways where our love is not con - fined.

WORDS: Sylvia G. Dunstan (Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36)

MUSIC: French, 17th cent.

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PICARDY

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CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

*** RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE PH 591 "Praise God"**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER JOYS and CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ending with the LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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

GOING OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST

*** HYMN PH #420 "God of Grace and God of Glory"**

*God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail Thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.*

*Cure Thy children's warring madness,
Bending our pride to Thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.*

*Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be,
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
Pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!*

*** BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE**

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Liturgical Resources Include: Call to worship ~ Rev. Rob Smith, Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church, Apple Valley, MN / Assurance of Pardon ~ written by Thom Shuman (February, 2006), and posted on his [Lectionary Liturgies](#) website.

We thank our Worship Leader  
and the Ushers/Greeters this morning.

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