

Transfiguration

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 that blinds the everyday eye
and so 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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SARASOTA

Celebration Sunday

and Annual Meeting

FEBRUARY 27, 2022 | 10:00 am

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER Margaret LaMotte Torrence

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Elder Carol Papa

INTROIT *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*
(The Celebration Band) American Folk Hymn

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Elder Denise Landers

Beloved, we are God's children now; *I John 3:2*
what we will be has not yet been revealed.
What we do know is this:
when he is revealed,
we will be like him,
for we will see him as he is.

I Corinthians 13:12-13

For now we see in a mirror, dimly,
but then we will see face to face.
Now I know only in part;
then I will know fully,
even as I have been fully known.
And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
and the greatest of these is love.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*
Beecher

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit;
Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty. *(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)*

**Those who are able will please stand.*
Thank you for silencing your cell phone.

Today's worship service is in conjunction with our **annual congregational meeting.**

Borrowing from the New Orleans Mardi Gras tradition, we gather on the Sunday before Lent to sing and pray and feast together.

Leading in worship this morning are our session members (listed by committee and class):

BUSINESS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Bob Wrobel (2023)
Mary Willis (2024)

CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Dick Clapp (class of 2023)
Karen Olson (class of 2024)

EDUCATION AND FORMATION COMMITTEE
Carrie Mills (2022)
Emily Weitekamp (2024)

MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE
Sue Hargis Spigel (2023)
Joanne Simons (2022)
Abby Clissold (2022)

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE
Dave Householder (2022)
Bob Kirkpatrick (2022)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
Carol Papa (2023)
Kay Steinman (2022)

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE
Denise Landers (2023)
Frank Frey (2024)
Jeff Bartell (2024)

CLERK OF SESSION
Michael Brown (2022)

Finish then thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Elder Jeff Bartell

Holy, Ever-living God,
Forgive us,
for when we look to you
we see projections of our own desires—
for power,
for ease,
for safety.

In this hour, overshadow us.
Meet us in ancient stories
and companions on the way,
until our fear gives way to wonder
and we find the courage to follow.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*** ACT OF PRAISE 127 (REFRAIN)** *We'll Walk in the Light*

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.

*** THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

HYMN *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. *(3 times)*
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. *(3 times)*
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

CHILDREN'S TIME - A MOMENT OF GRATITUDE Elder Carrie Mills

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Colossians 3:1-4 Elder Karen Olson

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 9:28-43a Elder Frank Frey

SERMON *Seeing Jesus* Margaret LaMotte Torrence

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Elders Bob Kirkpatrick and Dave Householder

REFRAIN 469 *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

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.

SONG OF FAITH *Joy* Kirk Franklin
(Syreeta Banks, with Chancel Choir and Celebration Band)

The song, *Joy*, exudes a spirit of faith overcoming in all circumstances. It was written and recorded by Gospel artist Kirk Franklin and has been widely sung and recorded, most famously by Whitney Houston in the film, *The Preacher's Wife.*

PRESENTATION OF 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT Elder Mary Willis

PRESENTATION OF 2022 GENERAL FUND BUDGET Elder Mary Willis

ANTHEM OF HOPE *When the Saints Go Marching In* Traditional/arr. Rutter
(The Chancel Choir with Celebration Band)

Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Oh, when the saints go marching in:
Oh, Lord, I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in.

And when the revelation comes . . .

Oh, when the new world is revealed . . .

Oh, when they gather round the throne . . .

Hallelujah, brothers, Hallelujah, sisters!
Hear the music going round and around,
While the saints go marching up into glory,
Oh, hear those angel trumpets sound!

And when they crown him King of Kings . . .

And when the sun no more will shine . . .

And on that hallelujah day . . .

Oh, when the saints go marching in . . .

When the Saints Go Marching In likely has its origins in the Bahamas. It then migrated to the mainland. Around the turn of the last century, the tune began to be played by many New Orleans jazz bands. It was a favorite accompanying funerals, soothing the mourners' loss and celebrated the continuity of the generations.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES Margaret LaMotte Torrence

2022 CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE Elder Dick Clapp

2022 FPC CORPORATION OFFICERS Elder Bob Wrobel

2022 FPC FOUNDATION OFFICERS Elder Betsy Marshall

CLOSE OF MEETING Margaret LaMotte Torrence

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** 1 Corinthians 12:4-7
Elder Kay Steinman

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
Thanks be to God.

*** HYMN 837** *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* Showalter

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. **(Refrain)**

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. **(Refrain)**

BENEDICTION Elder Abby Clissold and Margaret LaMotte Torrence

POSTLUDE *When the Saints Go Marching In* Traditional
(The Celebration Band)

Today we welcome these guest musicians who have brought their talents to our service of celebration:

David DeWitt – trombone
Isaac Mingus – upright bass
Jack Keeling – clarinet and saxophone
Mark DeRose - *drummer*
Syreeta Banks – vocals

Please join us for a potluck brunch following the service.
We will fill plates in the fellowship hall and eat outside! You are welcome to join us even if you did not bring a dish.

Cover Design: Painting from The Church of the Transfiguration community of artists

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2050 Oak Street
Sarasota, Florida 34237
(941) 955-8119
www.firstpressarasota.org
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)