



The Transfiguration (after Raphael)

Thomas Lawrence (1769–1830)
(attributed to)

National Trust, Mount Stewart

Online Worship Resource (Sunday, February 19, 2023)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude:

Be Thou My Vision

Irish ballad arr. Hal Hopson

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

David Noel, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our responsive Call to Worship:
God said, "This is my Son, the Beloved."

Let us worship you, O beloved God.

God said, "Listen!"

We want to hear your word anew this day.

God said, "Do not be afraid."

We lay our worries at your feet.

And after all this was spoken, God was quiet.

Still our souls, quiet our minds, and prepare us to be transformed, holy God.

Opening Hymn: #673 "Jesus, Light of Joy"

Jesus, light of joy surround us, Let your splendid glory shine;
Source of every earthly blessing, heaven's everlasting sign.
Alleluia, Alleluia, we adore you, light divine.

Now the shadows fall around us, Now the evening has begun;
Still your gracious light is with us, brighter than the morning sun.
Alleluia, Alleluia, God of glory, Three-in-One.

With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might.
All creation shines with glory, singing praises day and night.
Alleluia, Alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

Trusting in the ever-present mercy of our loving God, let us confess our sins, that we might receive grace and healing. Let us pray. . .

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, beauty, power, and grace, we have tried to hide from you—to hide our faces, to hide our sin—yet you have never hidden your love for us. We have tried to search for you—in temples, in clouds, on mountaintops—yet you have already revealed yourself to us in your Son, Jesus Christ. Forgive us, Lord, for our vanity and futility. Transform us so that your glory, beauty, power and grace may shine through us in blessing to the world around us.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, the good news of our faith is this: if we call on God, we will be answered and forgiven which leads us to peace and joy.

Thanks be to God! Hallelujah! Amen.

Response: #137 "He Came Down"

He came down that we might have love; He came down that we might have love;
He came down that we might have love, Hallelujah, forevermore.

He came down that we might have light....

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the prayer for Illumination:

Transport us, O God, to the mountaintop with you. Let us leave behind in the valley anything that would blunt our hearing of your word. Blind us with the dazzling truth of your glory, once again. Let the gospel address us as if for the first time, through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

NT p. 18

(Liturgist)

1 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 Then 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.' 5 While 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!' 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' 8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. 9 As 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.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Unclimbed Mountains

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn after Sermon: #192**"Shine, Jesus, Shine"**

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining,
Jesus, light of the world shine upon us; Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; Shine on me. (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN:

Shine, Jesus, Shine; fill this land with the Father's glory,
Blaze, Spirit, Blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, River, Flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy,
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness, Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.

Shine on me; Shine on me. (REFRAIN)

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
Ever-changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; Shine on me. (REFRAIN)

Call to Offering

(Liturgist)

The God who speaks and summons the world into being now speaks to us, inviting us to offer our lives as a sacrifice of praise. Let us give joyfully and generously of what has been entrusted to us for the building up of God's kingdom through the ministry of this church. Offering plates are available in the front and back of the sanctuary. Please pray with me our prayer of dedication.

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 leave this place, let our lives reflect the One who is the image of your glory: Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

Closing Hymn: # 314 "Christ Be our Light" vs. 1,2,5

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

REFRAIN

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us, Make us your living voice. (REFRAIN)

Many the gifts, many the people, Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. (REFRAIN)

Benediction

Postlude

Be Still, My Soul

Jean Sibelius

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know his voice who ruled them while he
dwelt below.

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, Director of Music, David Noel, liturgist and Glenn Fahrig, technology team

