

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**FEBRUARY 14, 2021**  
**TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY**

**PRELUDE**

**Fantasia on 'Wareham'**

Herbert Murrill  
 (1909-1952)

*As the prelude is played, prepare your home, yourself, and your family to enter into this time of worship.*

**OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)**

**God of love and healing, we gather today to hear the words of your love as you touch our hearts with holy balm. Open our hearts and spirits and let your merciful spirit dwell within us that, having heard the good news, we may bring that hope to others. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

**Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain**  
 Chancel Choir

**SILVER SPRING**

(Congr.) 1. Je - sus, take us to the moun - tain, where, with Pe - ter,  
 (All Men) 3. What do you want us to hear there, that Your dear dis -  
 (Congr.) 5. We who have be - held Your glo - ry, ris - en and as -  
 James, and John, we are daz - zled by Your glo - ry,  
 ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the Voice from heav - en,  
 cend - ed Lord, can - not help but tell the sto - ry,  
 light as blind - ing as the sun. There pre - pare us  
 says of the in - car - nate Word: "Lis - ten, lis - ten,  
 all that we have seen and heard; say with Pe - ter,  
 for the night by the vi - sion  
 ev - 'ry one, This is my be -  
 James, and John: "You are God's be -  
 of lov - ed Son!"  
 of lov - ed Son!"

(Choir) 2. What do You want us to see there,  
 that Your close companions saw?  
 Your divinity revealed there  
 fills us with the selfsame awe.  
 Clothed in flesh like ours You go  
 matched to meet our deadliest Foe.

(Choir) 4. Take us to that other mountain  
 where we see You glorified,  
 where You shouted "It is finished!"  
 where for all the world You died.  
 Hear the stunned centurion:  
 "Truly This was God's own Son!"

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. So let us acknowledge our failure and disobedience, and return to the Lord with penitence and faith.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

**How amazing it is to us, O God of love, that you look into our hearts and forgive our wayward spirits. So many times we have succumbed to the temptations of this world. We have turned deaf ears on the cries of those in distress and walked away from opportunities to give aid and comfort. Remind us again of how Jesus calls us to love and to serve. Forgive our stubbornness and our selfishness. Give us hearts of compassion and spirits willing to love and serve you by loving and serving others. We offer this prayer of contrition in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: The Lord loves us enough to separate our sin from us as far as the east is from the west. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

**Heavenly Father, your Word is more precious than fine gold, and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your Scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace, so that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith, and trust. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

### Psalm 50

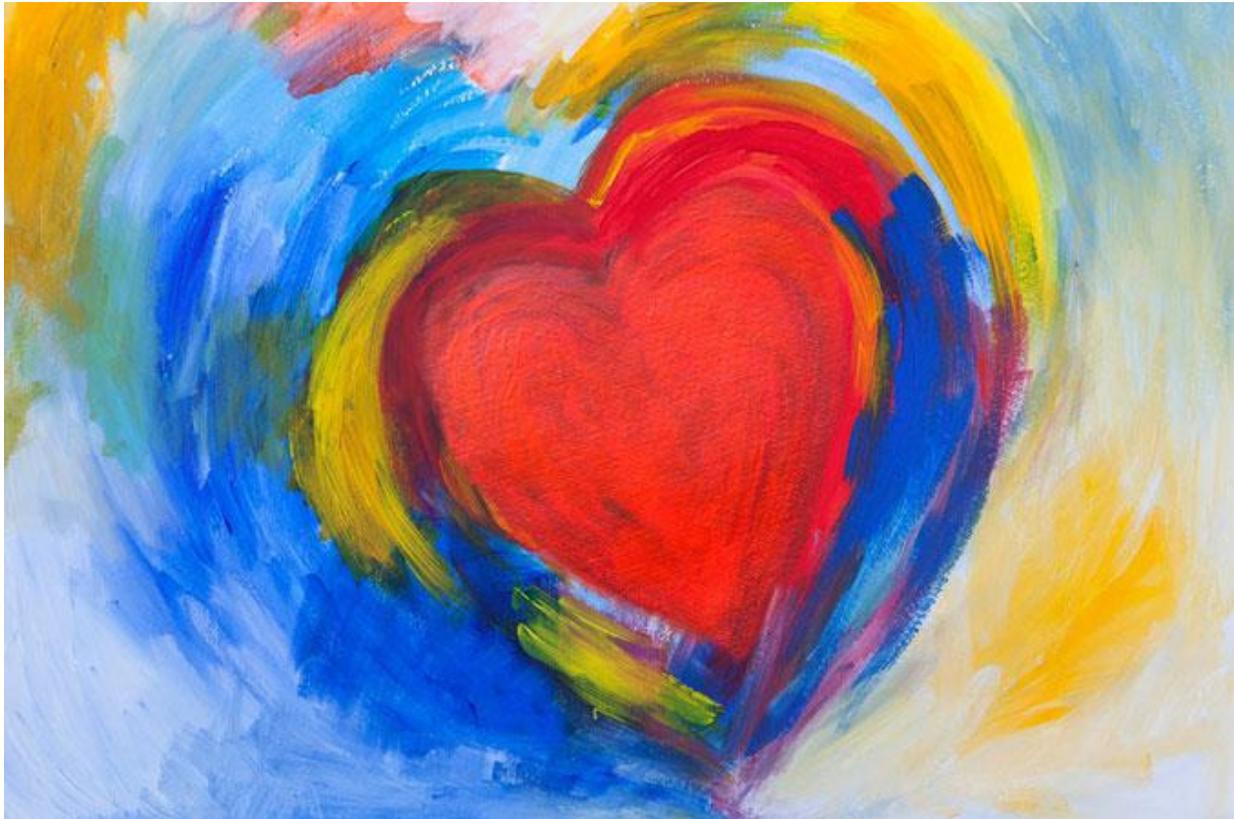
The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. *Selah* "Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me. I will not accept a bull from your house, or goats from your folds. For every wild animal of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine. "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and all that is in it is mine. Do I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to recite my statutes, or take my covenant on your lips? For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you. You make friends with a thief when you see one, and you keep company with adulterers. "You give your mouth free rein for evil, and

your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your kin; you slander your own mother's child. These things you have done and I have been silent; you thought that I was one just like yourself. But now I rebuke you, and lay the charge before you. "Mark this, then, you who forget God, or I will tear you apart, and there will be no one to deliver. Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God."

**SERMON**

**"God Valentines"**

Rev. Ross Carter



**CALL TO PRAYER**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Let us pray.

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## GIVING



## OFFERTORY

**Hear the Sound**  
Aldersgate Praise Band

All Sons & Daughters

## DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## BENEDICTION

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### Copyright Acknowledgements

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God and in honor of David Hamby on his birthday by Nancy Hamby.

**Today is Methodist Home for Children Sunday:** Children deserve a safe, loving home where they can thrive and live to their full God-given potential. On Methodist Home for Children SUNDAY, you can make this happen. Methodist Home for Children Sunday is the one day a year when congregations take up a special collection for the children served by MHC—children who come from empty homes, failing in school, looking for acceptance in all the wrong places. We see hope in each one of them—and you bring that hope to life. Thank you for believing and for giving. You may drop off your donation in the church office or mail to the church. Please note in the memo line: MHC Sunday.

**Bible Study and Coffee with a Pastor:** Join Pastor Ross on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom for a Bible Study. This study is ongoing with Pastor Ross hosting the gatherings in February. Look for the Zoom link in Tuesday's *Front Street Happenings* email. If you would like to participate, but are unable to join us on

Wednesday mornings, these gatherings are recorded and posted on our website and available to view at a time that suits you.

**Ash Wednesday Service Drive-Thru:** This year, we will observe Ash Wednesday with a drive-thru Imposition of Ashes. On **Wednesday, February 17**, from **noon – 1:00 p.m.**, you can come to the parking lot between Front and Davis Streets to receive ashes. (Enter from Front Street.) We will also have some literature to share containing suggestions that are designed to help you observe a holy Lent at home. The literature will also be available on the church website (beginning February 18) and in the Welcome Center.

**Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Patrick (via Zoom):** All are invited to walk through the book of Ruth this Lent with Pastor Patrick from the comfort of your own home. The ancient story of Ruth tells of an outsider, a migrant facing uncertainty in a strange land, a vulnerable female in a foreign culture; yet Ruth draws out generosity and justice and is herself the gift by which God will shape a new future for the people she chose as her own. This study will meet via Zoom on **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning February 18**. Look for the Zoom link in Tuesday's *Front Street Happenings* email.

**Sanctuary Flowers:** The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one: **February 21 and 28 and March 7, 14, and 21**. For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or kpaul5@triad.rr.com (email).

**Blood Drive:** Front Street will have a blood drive on **Saturday, February 27**, from **8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** in Aldersgate Hall. Donors can go sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), sponsor code: Front Street. Also, donors may text or call Gene Fonville at 336-260-8114 (cell) for more information or to schedule your appointment.

**Cereal and Canned Goods for the Salvation Army:** We continue to collect cereal and canned/dry goods for the Salvation Army. Please feel free to drop off these items any time during the month. You may deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center or call Betty Huneycutt (336-212-0704) for porch pick up. Thank you for your continued support of stocking the food pantry at the Salvation Army.

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

### **Prelude**

Herbert Murrill was an English musician, composer, and organist who studied at the Royal Academy of Music from 1925 to 1928. While there, he won medals for piano, organ, harmony, and aural training. From 1933 until his death, he was Professor of Composition at the Royal Academy of Music. His diverse musical output includes a jazz opera, film scores, incidental music for plays, and sacred choral and organ works. The "Fantasia on 'Wareham'" is based on a tune that is often paired with "O wondrous sight! O vision fair" (UMH No. 258). This medieval Latin text is based on the story of the Transfiguration. Murrill's composition sets each phrase of the tune separately. The first two phrases appear in the upper part of the right hand, while the second two phrases appear in the pedal part.

The tune is accompanied throughout by a polyrhythm, in this case, triplets over duplets in all four beats.

### **Opening Hymn**

This anthem was composed in 1990 for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Maryland, hence the tune name SILVER SPRING. The text was written by Jaroslav Vajda (1919-2008), who was an American hymnist that wrote over 200 original and translated hymns that appear worldwide in more than sixty-five hymnals. This hymn's text relates specifically to the story of the Transfiguration. It is paired with a tune by Carl Schalk who was a Lutheran composer, author, and lecturer. Schalk is well-known for his numerous choral compositions as well as his hymn tunes and carols, which number over one hundred. He had an ongoing collaboration with Vajda, producing tunes for several of his hymn texts. Schalk died on January 24, 2021 at the age of 91.