FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Transfiguration Sunday
Traditional Service
February 27, 2022

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Elegia op. 50 no. 4 Oreste Ravanello

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Your voice calls us.
All: Your light transforms us.
One: Your presence holds us.
All: Your silence speaks to us.
One: Filled with gratitude for such gifts, we gather to offer thanks and praise.
All: Glory to you, O God; Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer!

*OPENING HYMN #339

Be Thou My Vision SLANE

1 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.

2 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

3 Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

* Please stand if you are able.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Peace, you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth and ask us to follow; yet we go our own way. Your voice calls us to listen; yet we insist on speaking. You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John on the mountain of Transfiguration; yet we deny the wonders you have worked in our own lives. You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth; yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us. You bless our lives with boundless love; yet we fail to witness to that love and we keep others from knowing you. Forgive us, we pray. Transform us by your Spirit and your Word into the image of Christ, the hands and feet of Jesus.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE	Psalm 99 from Nan Merrill's *Psalms for Praying*	Nick Suarez
SCRIPTURE	Luke 9:28-36	The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

Leader: The word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

SERMON	"The Sound of Silence"	The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

WE RESPOND

*HYMN #73

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory — Sung to the tune EBENEZER (129)

1 Swiftly pass the clouds of glory,
Heaven's voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish;
Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent,
Turning from the summit's rise
Downward toward the shadowed valley
Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.

2 Glimpsed and gone the revelation,
They shall gain and keep its truth,
Not by building on the mountain
Any shrine or sacred booth,
But by following the Savior
Through the valley to the cross
And by testing faith's resilience
Through betrayal, pain, and loss.

3 Lord, transfigure our perception
With the purest light that shines,
And recast our life's intentions
To the shape of Your designs,
Till we seek no other glory
Than what lies past Calvary's hill
And our living and our dying
And our rising by Your will.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *The Confession of 1967*)

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of human minds. Human thought ascribe to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals God's love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Do Not Be Afraid Philip Stopford
Chancel Choir

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name;
you are mine.
When you walk through the waters,
I'll be with you;
you will never sink beneath the waves.
When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.
When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.
You are mine, O my child,
I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.

*Doxology #592 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN #450

O Day of Peace JERSUSALEM

1 O day of peace that dimly shines
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams
Guide us to justice, truth, and love,
Delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
Our hearts from envy find release,
Till by God's grace our warring world
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
Nor shall the fierce devour the small;
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,
A little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
All creatures find their true accord;
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
For all the earth shall know the Lord.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Fuga" from Sonata VI, Op. 65 F. Mendelssohn

Announcements:

- If you are attending in person, please pass the red pew pad to enter your name. If you are new to our church, we invite you to complete a “Connect Card” available on the table in the Narthex.
- The church office will reopen beginning tomorrow, February 28, for its regular schedule of Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The South entrance door will also be open during that time. We encourage you to make appointments with office staff, some of whom are still working remotely for part of their schedules.
- On Wednesday (March 2) at 7 p.m. we will offer an Ash Wednesday service, both in person in Fellowship Hall and via Facebook livestream.

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