

February 11, 2018 – 10:00 am
Transfiguration Sunday



ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, ILL

**An Open and Affirming congregation
where all are welcome**

Our mission is to worship and serve God in our church,
community and the world.

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

Please respond with words in **bold print**.

*Please stand if comfortably able

Witness to Wonders: Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday, was written by the Rev. Madison Shockley, pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, CA and a member of the board of directors of ProgressiveChristianity.org.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.

THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP.

PRELUDE: “Shine, Jesus, Shine” Carol Tornquist

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Gathering in this sacred place
we anticipate new wonders each week.

**All: Wherever two or three are gathered to
worship, a holy spirit is present.**

One: Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love
and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed,
even this day, even in this place.

**All: We will want to linger and camp in this
sanctuary but when we leave today may our
hearts be open to all the wonders of God’s
beautiful world.**

*INVOCATION:

O Holy One,
on mountaintops and valley floors
you reveal to us the light of your love.
Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory
of the divine presence.
With each encounter we are changed and transformed.
Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of
your Holy Spirit.

Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.

May we walk among our brothers and sister as a blessing, bearing light into dark places, hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate. Our world is hurting and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely. Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying,
... "listen to my Child, the Beloved!" Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: "In Dazzling Array" by L. Bayler (on screen)**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Forgive us, God, when we linger too long by the waters,
and on the mountain tops,
enthralled with the glory that flows from you.
When we fail to listen to your voice, leading and guiding us,
shake us from our contentment
and send us forward endowed with your power. **Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

The God of Elijah, the God of Moses and the God of Jesus desires mercy more than sacrifice and a contrite heart rather than burnt offerings.
Love God and do the right thing
and forgiveness shall be your friend
and mercy your true companion. **Amen.**

One: Let us give God our thanks and praise.

***GLORIA: #759**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,
Three-in-One; As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12
Lay Liturgist (Pages 460 in pew Bibles)

UNISON READING OF PSALM 50:1-6 Pastor Rosemary

CHOIR ANTHEM: "This Little Light of Mine"

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

*GOSPEL LESSON:

Mark 9:2-9

(Pages 1227 - 1228 in the Pew Bibles)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON: **“This Can’t Be the Messiah.
Messiah’s Don’t Suffer”**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **“Open My Eyes, That I May See”**
(On Screen)

*UNISON READING OF THE APOSTLE’S CREED: (on Screen)

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed it be your 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE: **#773 “Remember Me”**

Remember me, remember me,

O Jesus, remember me.

INVITATION TO SHARE:

Peter offered to build a tabernacle on the mountain with Jesus. But God does not dwell in houses made with human hands. Let us offer ourselves in service to those God loves. Let us offer our sacrifices to build community, bring peace, and be a double blessing to those in need throughout the world. Amen

OFFERTORY: “Holy Ground” Geron Davis

*DOXOLOGY: # 780

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

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

**With these gifts we proclaim not ourselves but Jesus
and commit ourselves to follow a way that leads to
love and life. May our sacrifice be witness to our love
for each other and the God who loves us all. Amen**

*SENDING HYMN:

182 "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

DURING THE HYMN THE LIGHT IS EXTINGUISHED AND
CARRIED OUT INTO THE WORLD.

*BENEDICTION:

Now may the God who said,
"Let light shine out of darkness"
and has shone in our hearts,
give us light to bear to the world
that all may see and know that God is love. Amen.

THE BELL RINGS AS WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD, TO
SPREAD THE JOY OF CHRIST TO ALL.

*POSTLUDE: "Lift Up Your Songs of Praise" Stewart Landon

"Our Worship has ended – Now our Service begins."