

February 23, 2020 – 10:00 am
Transfiguration Sunday



ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT
- LITURGY BY REV DR RENEE C. JACKSON
- SCRIPTURE TEXTS FROM THE COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE.
- *PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.
- **NCH** IS THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE: “Morning Prayer” May F. Lawrence

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

(based on Exodus 24:12-18 and Psalm 99)

One: We hear your challenge, O God, and your call:

Many: Come! Says the Lord.

Come up to the Holy Mountain!

One: We hear you, Holy One, but we are afraid.

What will we find there?

Many: Come! Says the Lord.

Come up to the Holy Mountain!

One: We are assembled in this sanctuary, this holy place. Let us meet together here, away from the distractions of the world.

Many: Come! Says the Lord.

Come up to the Holy Mountain!

One: Mighty One, we know you are a lover of justice. You have established equity. Our knees, yes even our souls, quake before you for we have not done what we ought to do.

Many: Come! Receive instruction in holiness, righteousness, compassion, and peace.

One: Come! Regain insight to see the least among you, those whose rights have been trampled upon.

Many: Come! Let the anointing oil of my Spirit open your ears to the sounds of weeping and the anguished cries for justice.

One: Come! says the Lord; receive wisdom and strength.

**Many: Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts
to receive your Word.**

One: Anoint us as your priests to those who live on
the margins – the outcasts, the lonely,
the ignored.

**Many: Anoint us as your holy people,
to receive your Word.**

One: Come! Says the Lord. Come up to the Holy
Mountain! I am the Sovereign and Holy One.
Do not be afraid.

Many: Come! Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN: NCH 26 “We Worship You, God”**

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

**Holy God, we extol and honor you for who you are.
We praise you for your faithfulness and for your tender
mercies that are renewed every morning.**

**We exalt you, Sovereign One, for every blessing of
yesterday, the gift of this day, and the promises of our
tomorrows.**

**Grant us an enduring faith as we strive against
oppression and despair. Endow us with contagious joy that
uplifts the downtrodden and inspires hope in you.
Increase in us the faith and courage of the prophets,
the love of Jesus, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.
In your majestic name we pray, Amen.**

***GLORIA: NCH 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: **Exodus 24:12-18**

Lay Liturgist

RESPONSIVE READING: **Psalm 99 Page 687**

EPISTLE READING: **2 Peter 1:16-21** Lay Liturgist

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

*GOSPEL READING: **Matthew 17:1-9**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON: ""

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **NCH 451 "Be Now My Vision"**

PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with silent, personal prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER: **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be
done, on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE: **NCH 775**

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

INVITATION TO SHARE:

OFFERTORY: **"Holy Ground" Geron Davis**

***DOXOLOGY: NCH 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

God of Awe and Glory, receive these gifts as symbols of our trust in you. Bless the givers and those who desired to give. Multiply these offerings and the blessings they represent. Guide the disbursement of them according to your will. These things we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: NCH 183 (Tune NCH 183)**

"Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

***BENEDICTION:**

The time has come to depart this holy place.
Be not afraid. The Spirit of the Living God goes ahead of you, with you, guiding you.
May God bless you and keep you.
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God look kindly upon you and give you peace.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH 812 Three-fold Amen
Amen, Amen, Amen.**

***POSTLUDE: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"
Benton Price**