

**February 19, 2023**  
**Transfiguration of the Lord**

**Prayer of Preparation**

*God of Transformation: We come to the mountain, we come with our fear. We open our minds to the thought you are near. We open our eyes to look into Christ's face. We open our hearts to be filled by your grace. Amen.*

(Source: Walton Murray)

**Gathering in the Presence of God**

*\*Stand in Body or Spirit*

**Gathering Music**      *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*      (Tune: Dix)

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light;  
Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return till thy mercy's beams I see;  
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiancy divine; scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

**Welcome**

Pastor Eddie

**\*Call to Worship** (responsively)

Lord, you have called us to the mountaintop.

Help us to look forward to where you would have us go.  
Help us to listen carefully to the words of your healing love.

Open our hearts and spirits to receive your glorious directions.  
Place your trust in the Lord in all your ways.

Lord, we have come here to give our lives to you. Amen.

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

### **Preparing for the Word**

#### **Call to Confession**

Liturgist

When Christ appears we shall be like him because we shall see him as he is.  
As he is pure, all who have grasped this hope make themselves pure. So let  
us confess our sins that mar his image in us.

*Time of silent reflection and confession...*

**Confessing Our Separation from God** *(responsively)*  
*(Source: Ruminari)*

Liturgist

God of mountaintops, the din of the world can harden our hearts to your Word,

we confess to you and to one another the many ways we fail to live the lives you want for us.

We make ourselves busy with many things,  
and neglect to listen to your voice.

All too often we see the worst in the world around us,  
and look past your signs of hope.

We are quick to voice our dissent with one another,  
and refuse to see your face in the persons with whom we disagree.

We focus on our own hurts, anger, and disappointments,  
and close our hearts to your transforming grace.

O Holy Light of the world, forgive us.

Open our eyes to your endless possibilities and give us courage to listen for your call to us. Take our hearts of stone and make them new again with your holy love.

**Words of Compassion**

Pastor Eddie

**\*Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.

**We Hear God's Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Liturgist

Guide us, O God, by your word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Source: The Good News Translation*

Why do the nations plan rebellion? Why do people make their useless plots?

<sup>2</sup>Their kings revolt, their rulers plot together against the LORD and against the king he chose. <sup>3</sup>“Let us free ourselves from their rule,” they say; “let us throw off their control.” <sup>4</sup>From his throne in heaven the Lord laughs and mocks their feeble plans.

<sup>5</sup>Then he warns them in anger and terrifies them with his fury. <sup>6</sup>“On Zion, my sacred hill,” he says, “I have installed my king.” <sup>7</sup>“I will announce,” says the king, “what the LORD has declared. He said to me: ‘You are my son; today I have become your father. <sup>8</sup>Ask, and I will give you all the nations; the whole earth will be yours. <sup>9</sup>You will break them with an iron rod; you will shatter them in pieces like a clay pot.’” <sup>10</sup>Now listen to this warning, you kings; learn this lesson, you rulers of the world: <sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear; tremble <sup>12</sup>and bow down to him; or else his anger will be quickly aroused, and you will suddenly die. Happy are all who go to him for protection.

This is the Word of God

**Response: Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem**

**Shine, Jesus Shine**

**Chorus**

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 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. (Chorus)

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. (Chorus)

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. (Chorus)

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 17:1-9

Pastor Eddie

*Source: The Good News Translation*

Six days later Jesus took with him Peter and the brothers James and John and led them up a high mountain where they were alone. <sup>2</sup> As they looked on, a change came over Jesus: his face was shining like the sun, and his clothes were dazzling white. <sup>3</sup> Then the three disciples saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. <sup>4</sup> So Peter spoke up and said to Jesus, “Lord, how good it is that we are here! If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

<sup>5</sup> While he was talking, a shining cloud came over them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased—listen to him!”

<sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard the voice, they were so terrified that they threw themselves face downward on the ground. <sup>7</sup> Jesus came to them and

touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid!" <sup>8</sup> So they looked up and saw no one there but Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they came down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Don't tell anyone about this vision you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from death."

This is the Word of God

**Response: Thanks be to God!**

**Reflection**

*"Mountaintop: Places for Insights"*

Pastor Eddie

### **Responding to God's Word**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (unison)

Liturgist

*Source Philippians 2:5-11, GNT*

**The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: <sup>6</sup> He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. <sup>7</sup> Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death - his death on the cross. <sup>9</sup> For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name. <sup>10</sup> And so, in honor of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below<sup>[b]</sup> will fall on their knees, <sup>11</sup> and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

Liturgist

## Invitation to the Offertory

Liturgist

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refused to help? The scriptures bid us, "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." We will now receive the morning offering.

**Offertory**                      *This is a Day of New Beginnings*      **Westminster Choir**

This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember, and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference  
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past, and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.

**\*Doxology**

**GTG #609**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures high and low.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit one.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Liturgist

Majestic Lord, transfigure our simple gifts in a way that will inspire all people to proclaim your everlasting message of love. Strip away our biased convictions so that through our selfless giving we can gaze clearly on your vision for our lives. In the name of your son, the Beloved One, we pray.  
Amen.

**We Follow God's Word into the World**

**\*Hymn**

*Open the Eyes of My Heart*

**GTG 452**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You  
  
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You  
  
To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
I want to see you

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
You are holy, holy, holy  
I want to see you

**Benediction**

Pastor Eddie

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Postlude**

Steve Johnson



## This Is a Day of New Beginnings 383

*Unison*

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,  
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,  
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,  
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us  
 \*5. In faith we'll gath - er round the ta - ble

time to re - mem - ber and move on,  
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,  
 step from the past and leave be - hind  
 to show and share what love can do.  
 to taste and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,  
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,  
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;  
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

1-3 | 4 or 5