

**Westminster Presbyterian Church  
February 27, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
Live Streaming In Person**

**Transfiguration of the Lord**

***Gathering Music***

*Steven Johnson*

***Come, Now is the Time to Worship***

*Come, now is the time to worship; come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship; come, just as you are before your God, come. (repeat)*

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God;  
One day ev'ry knee will bow. Still the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly choose You now.

*Come, now is the time to worship; come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship; come, just as you are before your God, come.  
(tag) Come, come (just as you are) come*

***Come Just As You Are***

*Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call.  
Come just as you are, come and see, come receive.  
Come and live forever.*

*Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call.  
Come just as you are, come and see, come receive  
Come and live forever.*

*Life everlasting, strength for today  
Taste the living water and never thirst again.*

*Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call.  
Come just as you are, come and see, come receive  
Come and live forevermore.*

***Welcome***

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

***Call to Worship***

*Liturgist*

Let us come now to be fed,  
to be renewed,  
to seek understanding.

Come let God challenge us in this place,  
Come and embrace the challenge,  
trusting that through challenge we grow in faith.

Come seeking God in this place,  
sometimes in shining glory,  
sometimes in tears and struggle.  
Come to worship in this place,  
refreshed, renewed, and challenged  
by the One who transfigures us!

Come...  
Worship...  
And rejoice!

***Hymn of Praise:***

**GTG #4**

***Holy God, We Praise Your Name***

*Holy God, we praise thy name. God of all, we bow before thee.  
All on earth your scepter claim; all in heav'n above adore thee.  
Infinite thy vast domain, everlasting is thy reign.*

*Hark, the loud celestial hymn, angel choirs above are raising.  
Cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord.*

*Lo! the apostolic train join thy sacred name to hallow.  
Prophets swell the glad refrain, and the blessed martyrs follow,  
and, from morn till set of sun, through the church the song goes on.*

*Holy Author, Holy Word, Holy Spirit, three we name thee;  
still, one holy voice is heard: undivided God, we claim thee,  
and adoring bend the knee, while we own the mystery.*

**Preparing for the Word**

***Call to confession***

*Liturgist*

Psalm 91 says: Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them.  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.

And in the Second Helvetic Confession we read:  
This is true repentance: sincerely turning to God and all good  
and earnestly turning away from the devil and all evil.  
Let us turn now to God in true repentance.

**Prayer of confession**

*Liturgist*

**Forgive us, O God,  
when we stumble in the darkness  
and turn away from your face.  
Strengthen us to walk in your brightness  
and live in your ways.  
Enlighten the shadows  
that keep us from growing in your love and light.  
Shower us with your grace,  
that we might shine as your transfigured people upon this earth.**  
*(a moment for silent confession)*

***Words of forgiveness***

*Liturgist*

By God's mercy, we are forgiven;  
by God's mercy, we are made whole;  
by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others.  
Thanks be to God for the Good News:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

*Choir response:*

*Oh God, You are my God and I will ever praise you  
Oh God, You are my God and I will ever praise you  
I will seek You in the morning and I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me and I will follow You all of my days.*

**Hearing the Word**

**Message for all God's Children:**

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

**Prayer for illumination:**

*Liturgist*

Mighty God,  
Speak to us through your Word today,  
that we may hear you calling us  
out of the wilderness places in our lives  
and into new places you have promised to show us.  
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

**Old Testament Lesson:**

*Liturgist*

*Exodus 34:29-35*

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking

with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

**Anthem: Shine, Jesus, Shine**

**New Testament Lesson:**

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

*2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2*

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

**Sermon:** *Transfigured to act with boldness!*

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

**Hymn:**

**GTG #193**

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

*Jesus, take us to the mountain where, with Peter, James and John,  
We are dazzled by Your glory, Light as blinding as the sun.  
There prepare us for the night by the vision of that sight.*

*What do you want us to see there that Your close companions saw?  
Your divinity revealed there fills us with the self-same awe.  
Clothed in flesh like ours You go, matched to meet our deadliest foe.*

*What do You want us to hear there that Your dear disciples heard?  
Once again the voice from heaven says of the incarnate Word:  
"Listen, listen ev'ryone; This is My beloved Son!"*

*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!"*

*We who have beheld Your glory, risen and ascended Lord,  
Cannot help but tell the story, all that we have seen and heard,*

*Say with Peter, James, and John: "You are God's beloved Son!"*

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

#### **Invitation to the Offering**

*Liturgist*

This is a moment to give back a portion of all we receive. Let us pray: Gracious God, you create more than we could ever hope to return. You share more than we could ever hope to deserve. And yet, we pray, accept these humble gifts. May they honor and glorify you in all creation, and may they empower us for the work of witness and service, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of peace, now and forever. Amen.

#### ***Doxology***

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!

#### **Prayers of the people**

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

Eternal God,  
you are the maker of us all, and we are your creation,  
people formed in your image, as individuals, as community;  
formed and fed and furnished with understanding of who you are  
and of who and whose we are.  
We worship you today in recognition of your calling,  
of your caring to invite us to share in your creative and healing work.  
Help us, dear Lord, to ever respond to you and your invitation to your grace...

God of all our moments, of our days and our nights,  
you speak and you act in the world around us,  
not only to call all people to you,  
but also to direct and guide us in the way of healing and wholeness.  
Awaken us Lord, to hear what you would say to us.  
Help us to open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts to your presence.  
Help us to know when it is your voice we are hearing  
and it when it is our prejudices and desires to which we are paying heed....  
Lord, we pray that your church may rise up with renewed commitment  
in answer to your call, that your people may be instruments of your grace and love....  
We pray for those who consider themselves inadequate  
and dismiss or avoid your calling in their lives.  
Give them a new vision,  
a vision in which you are their strength and their hope...  
We pray for those who, in answering your call,  
must leave the known for the unknown,  
the oasis for the desert, the comfortable for the uncertain.  
Grant them courage and steadfast faith...

We pray too, today, O Lord, for those in want and need –  
for those of us and of the larger community who suffer in body or in soul.  
We remember before you...*[various intercessions]*

Loving Father, bless us all with an abundant faith,  
a fruitful ministry, a joyful life.  
Bless us and all those who gather together to continue the work of Jesus,  
who came to heal, save, and deliver us all,  
and who taught us to pray as one family, saying...

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Affirmation of Faith** *(from Belhar Confession)*

*Liturgist*

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**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.**

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.**

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.**

**We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.**

**We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; and that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows. the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering.**

**We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things. Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.**

**Going forth in Joy!**

**Closing Hymn**

**GTG #321**

***The Church's One Foundation***

*1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
She is his new creation by water and the word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.*

*2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*

*3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

*4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.*

*5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.*

***Benediction***

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

Go Forth as God's Transfigured people  
Go Forth as God's Transfigured Church  
Go Forth standing by people in any form of suffering  
And Taste and See the Goodness of God in your lives. Amen

***Postlude***