
St. Andrew's By-The-Lake United Church
Transfiguration Sunday — February 11, 2018

As you sit to prepare for worship, you are invited to take a moment to acknowledge the land on which our church stands and the spirit of those First Peoples who named this area Katorokwi – the meeting place on the flat rocks.

We also acknowledge the enduring presence of First Peoples who remind us to honour the places where our feet stand.

- ◆ the congregation is invited to stand, as you are able. Congregational responses and hymn titles appear in **bold type**

Gathering of God's People

Prelude: *Dove of Peace*

Charles Callahan

Greetings & Announcements

Joys & Concerns

Call to Worship:

Jesus went up a mountain, where he and three of his best buds

received a life-changing glimpse of glory.

We crawled out of bed today to come to this mountain

for a glimpse of glory... a glimpse of God...

a glimpse of beyond... a glimpse of otherness.

There is always so much more than what we see, or hear, or feel.

**When we laugh... or cry... or just be...
there is always a bigger picture,
a broader perspective, a higher, longer view.**

We gather to listen, to open ourselves to the possibilities,
to allow ourselves to wonder and question...
**trusting that our worship might take us
to such a deeper, higher, broader, wider glimpse
of God.**

Christ Candle is lit in reverent silence

Come! Let us worship God.

◆ **Hymn:** *How Good, Lord to Be Here* **VU #103**

Tune: Schumann as on insert page

How good, Lord, to be here!

Your glory fills the night;

your face and garments, like the sun,

shine with unborrowed light.

How good, Lord, to be here,

your beauty to behold,

where Moses and Elijah stand,

your messengers of old.

**Fulfiller of the past
and hope of things to be,
we hail your body glorified,
and our redemption see!**

**Before we taste of death,
we see your kingdom come;
we long to hold the vision bright
and make this hill our home!**

**How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
but, since you bid us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.**

Responsive Invocation: Psalm 50

VU #775

**R The mighty one, God the Sovereign,
speaks and summons the earth.**

**God, the Almighty, has spoken;
and summoned the world
from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

God shines out from Zion, a city perfect in beauty.

Our God appears, and will not keep silence. R

**Before you, God, runs a consuming fire,
and a mighty tempest rages about you.**

You call on the heavens above,

and on the earth below,

to witness the judgement of your people:

“Gather my people before me,
the people who made covenant with me by
sacrifice.”

The heavens proclaim your justice,

for you yourself are judge. R

Anthem: *Be still, for the presence of the Lord*

Evans/Shephard

Good News in God's Word

Conversation Time:

Denis Lehotay

Scripture: Ken Ross

OLD TESTAMENT 2: II Kings 2:8-12 (NRSV)

Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.”

Elisha replied, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.”

To which Elijah responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.”

As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them... and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.

As Elisha watched him go he cried out, “Father, father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” Then, when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Herein lies wisdom

Thanks be to God

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 9:2-9a (NRSV)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James & John, and led them up a high mountain where they could be apart by themselves.

He was transfigured before them, his clothes becoming dazzling white - whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (He didn’t know what he was saying, for he was terrified.)

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”

Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

And as they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no-one about what they had seen.

Herein lies good news **Thanks be to Christ**

◆ **Hymn:***Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* VU #336

Tune "DIX" as in VU #81 on insert page

**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.**

**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,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**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.**

Today's Message: *"We Come, We Shine, We Go"*

"Then he lost sight of him... and he warned them to tell no one what they had seen... to this day no-one has found his grave."

II Kings 2:12b, Mark 9: 9a, Deut'y 34:6b

Giving Our Response

◆ **Hymn:** *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

VU #104

**We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.**

**Light breaks in upon our darkness;
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:**

**Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.**

**Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.**

**But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.**

Prayers of the People, Ending with The Lord's Prayer

(Including a time for silent prayer)

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all
that is and that shall be. Father and Mother of us
all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hollowing of your name echo through the
universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace
and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

◆ Offertory Prayer & Sung Response: VU #82

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.**

**Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.**

Please be seated for the Courtesies

Courtesies

Going into God's World

◆ Closing Hymn: *Give Thanks for Life* VU #706

**Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**Give thanks for those who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through
the night,**

who touched the truth, who burned for what is
right,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

And for our own, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time or death or dread,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the
grain
lying in darkness does its life retain
in resurrection to grow green again.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

◆ **Blessing & Going Forth:**

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ *Peace Be with You* MV #215

Peace be with you, peace forever, peace be with
you, my friends.

Till we meet again, may God be with you. Peace,
peace, peace.

Postlude: *Prelude in G minor* J.S. Bach

Weekly quote: “*The mark of the immature person is that (s)he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of a mature person is that (s)he wants to live humbly for one.*”
William Stekel