



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE SUNDAY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

10:30 A.M. SERVICE



Transfiguration, Lewis Bowman, 2008

Today is **Transfiguration Sunday**, a transitional Sunday between the Ordinary Time after Epiphany and the beginning of Lent. On Transfiguration Sunday, we are presented with the glory of the Trinity. The Father and Holy Spirit come together to direct our attention to Jesus Christ, the central figure of the event on the mountain top. The presence of Moses and Elijah emphasizes that in Jesus, the covenant and prophecies have been fulfilled. Through Jesus, a new purpose in life has opened for his followers. Jesus's transfiguration is a metaphor for the transformation of our own human nature, that we may finally join in the divine life for which we were intended.

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHING – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON,
LITURGISTS – REGGIE HOLDER, LESLIE WILLIAMS
CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS
VERGER – BRIAN BELLENGER

**Congregation please stand. Words in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.*

Serving for Altar Guild: Leslie Davis, Lynn L'Eplattenier

Serving as Ushers: Jim Shannon, Jimmy Shannon

Serving as Lay Reader: Gordon Short

Serving as Acolytes: Lizzy Glenn, Eleanor Hudson, Miriam Hudson

Serving as Communion Stewards: P.J. Ellis, Karen Holton

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Kara Cargile, chimer

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

PRELUDE

Fanfare

William Mathias (1934-1992)

***HYMN IN PROCESSION 139**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN
Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne
Descant Setting: Richard Proulx

***COLLECT FOR PURITY**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GLORIA (*Sung by The Choir*)

William Mathias

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

***COLLECT FOR TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY**

Let us pray: Holy God, upon the mountain you revealed our Messiah, who by his death and resurrection would fulfill both the law and the prophets. By his transfiguration enlighten our path that we may dare to suffer with him in the service of humanity and so share in the everlasting glory of him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever. Amen.

May these words reveal Christ to us. Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Fintan O'Carroll (1922-1981) and Christopher Walker (b. 1947)

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*GOSPEL LESSON

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Lesson

Matthew 17:1-9

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

*THE NICENE CREED 880

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leslie Williams

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Musical Setting: William Mathias (1934-1992)

*INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION & PEACE

God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another. We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we enact our faith. The Communion Table is open to all who are in love with God and their neighbor and seek forgiveness and healing in this broken world.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Te Deum in B Flat Major

The Choir

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.

To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein.

To thee cherubim and seraphim continually do cry:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.

The glorious company of the apostles praise thee. The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee. The noble army of martyrs praise thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee, the Father, of an infinite majesty,

Thine honorable, true, and only Son, also the Holy Ghost the comforter. Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father. When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst not abhor the virgin's womb.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father. We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with thy saints, in glory everlasting. O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine heritage.

Govern them and lift them up forever. Day by day we magnify thee and we worship thy name ever world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord to keep us this day with out sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee. O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded.

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Text, Book of Common Prayer

*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might.



Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

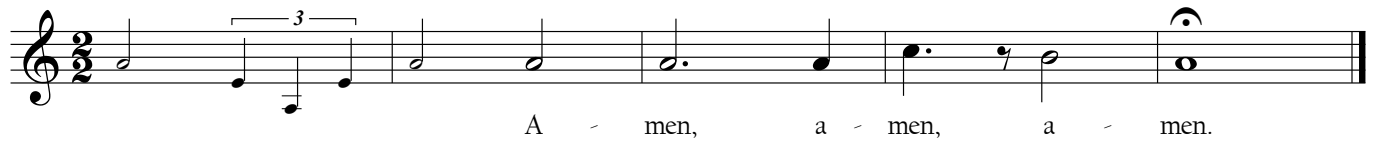


Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



...Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Jesus Lamb of God

The Choir

*Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.*

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Reflecting our conviction that God's grace is for all people, everyone is invited to the Lord's table. Please come forward as directed by the ushers to receive the sacrament. Holy Communion will be served by intinction; clergy will dip the bread into the cup and place in congregants' hands. Congregants are welcome to kneel at the chancel rail for prayer before returning to their seats.

COMMUNION HYMN 258

O Wondrous Sight

The Choir and Congregation

WAREHAM

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

God of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gates of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 173

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Verses 1 & 3

HOUSTON

Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne

*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

ORGAN IMPROVISATION ON A HYMN TUNE



WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!

ALL ARE WELCOME



A Reconciling Congregation with the Reconciling Ministries Network – rmnetwork.org

Highlands United Methodist Church is a community of disciples of Christ; a beacon of hope, inviting all to become new persons in Christ to be sent into the world to share the Gospel and to serve our neighbors; and a sanctuary for those in need of God's love and grace.

Highlands United Methodist Church affirms that nothing can separate anyone from the love of God. We invite all to worship, wonder, and discover God's grace as we aspire to create a safe space for all to participate fully in the life of this community of faith. We are called to shine as a beacon of hope, grace, belonging, and respect for all people. Regardless of age, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, family, financial status, nationality, physical or mental ability, past or future, there is room for you at Highlands.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The message of the Hebrew prophets, Jesus, Paul, and the early church was always a message of welcome and inclusion for all. The image of God's kingdom is of something small and insignificant growing into something larger and of great significance. The oppressed, the alien, and the outcast were all welcomed, included, and cared for. In this sense, our faith is built upon the idea of gracious hospitality. Followers of Jesus are not about walls of exclusion but bridges of grace and acceptance. Ours is a faith of invitation, for all to come to know Jesus as the living Christ who overcomes all brokenness, sin, and even death, offering a way to make all things new. This invitation extends to you. If you desire to explore what this means for you, please speak to a member of the clergy after the service or sometime this week. We welcome the opportunity to visit with you.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or exhibit symptoms of illness, please join us for online worship. *Worship services are livestreamed on Facebook, Youtube, and Vimeo. Visit www.highlandsumc.net for more information.*
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the Sanctuary and church building. Congregants are especially encouraged to sanitize hands prior to receiving Holy Communion.

If you have questions or concerns regarding in-person worship safety protocols, please contact the church office at 205-933-8751.

OFFERING

Cash or Check Giving:

- Giving envelopes are available in the pew racks. Checks may be made payable to HUMC.

Electronic Giving:

- Text GIVE to 205-900-3040. A link will be provided for a simple, quick way to give with one click.
- Visit www.highlandsumc.net/giving to give using a debit/credit card or bank account.

Sustainable Giving:

- To set up automatic monthly bank drafts, contact financial manager Tyra Johnson-Pirtle at finance@highlandsumc.net.

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