

*Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day
Transfiguration Sunday, February 19, 2023
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386
Crossnore, NC 28616*



Welcome and Church Family News (PDF attachment)

Choral Call to Worship # 406 *Holy Ground*

<https://youtu.be/RDsqR3HCbnE> -

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC

We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground

Call to Worship:

We are brought here today to glimpse the hope that Christ has for us.

Open our hearts to receive that hope.

We are brought here today to be healed of our fears.

Heal us, Lord Jesus, with your love and power.

Come, let us receive the vision and healing love of God.

Praise be to God who continues to bless and restore us.

Hymn of Praise # 265 *Jesus Shall Reign*

<https://youtu.be/5U4IMtvp6bg> - First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

DUKE STREET

Call to Confession:

The presence of God shines all around us, and yet our faces are buried in our phones, and our minds are on the tasks that are left undone, oblivious to the miracle of the Holy Spirit that surrounds us. Let us together lift up our heads and open our eyes to see the work of God that abounds. Let us confess our sins before God and each other.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

We pray for change. We pray for transformation. We pray for transfiguration. We pray that the world around us will be changed to suit our needs, to agree with us, to be like the world we want. We do not give space for your holy work, trying to control it, thinking we know best. We pray for change—but only on our terms. God, forgive us for praying for everyone but us to change. God, forgive us for thinking we know best. God, be with us. Strengthen us for the hard work of personal change, for the difficult task of trusting you, for the uneasy feeling that we might be wrong (moment of silent confession). In the name of the One who came to transform all of creation, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

The grace of God is always doing a new thing—whether we are prepared, or worthy, or not. Let us receive and believe this good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 441 *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

<https://youtu.be/E3V2JRX8V6w> - Cambridge United Presbyterian Church; Cambridge, NY

Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.

Such great kindness! Such great Mercy! Come to us from heaven above.

[Refrain]

Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!

How I love you! Look up-on me. Love me still and cleanse with-in.

All the sins I have committed, to my Savior now I bring.

I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing: [Refrain]

First Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Choir Anthem: *Lord, Lead Us Day by Day*

text by Hal H. Hopson, music by George F/ Handel

<https://youtu.be/qBTvJeaCNGc> - First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a

voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Sermon: "The Holy Moments that Change Us" (PDF attachment)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Affirmation of Faith:

**Our trust is in God, our holy Creator and Father,
who makes all things and from whom all blessings flow.
God's faithfulness is the anchor of our hope.**

**Our trust is in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
More than a teacher,
his life, death, and resurrection gives meaning to our existence.
Christ's faithfulness tethers us to holy mystery.**

**Our trust is in the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Counselor,
blowing over and through creation, unexpected and untamed,
the Spirit stirs forgiveness, fruitfulness, and creates families.
The Spirit's faithfulness ties together past, present, and future.**

Holy Trinity, One God, we believe you transfigure our faith. Amen.
(written by Rev. Julia Seymour, Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage, AK, adapted)

Hymn of Meditation # 683 *Lord of All Hopefulness*

COURTNEY

<https://youtu.be/oOZqgLMAt18> - The Orchard Enterprises

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Prayers of the People:

It is a strange time of year, O God.
We linger between the seasons of Epiphany and Lent.
We are between the joy of your appearing
and the horror of your undoing
at the hands of those who would not or could not
embrace your way of life.

Perhaps we – like Peter, James, and John –
wait for your appearing in dazzling light and unmistakable clarity:
We are in need of a glimpse of Jesus
who is the way through the mix and mess of this life.
Our planet is fragile and so is the life that claims it as home.

We wonder how long we can simply take what we want
with little regard for what it costs your creation.

We wonder if the planet is crying out for relief
in the floods that are really tears;
the earthquakes that try and shake our consciousness;
the gales that blow sighs, too deep for words.

Renew and restore a vision of care for your creation.

Remind us to take what we need and no more.

Encourage us in a counter-cultural faithfulness
that is not about consumerism.

Spur us with new insight and deeper understanding
that we may live mindfully each day,
conscious of the impact of we do and fail to do.

We pray for your power and presence to reign down
on the people of the world whose names we will never know,
whose faces flash across the TV screen in anonymity born of numbers;
those who bear the weight of earth's pain:

We especially lift up those who are living under the weight of the earthquakes
in Turkey and Syria and those who are trying to do something, anything, to help.

We pray for those who are living through the hell of the war in Ukraine
that is ending its first year with no end of the war in sight,
and those who are trying to do something, anything to help.

We pray for those who are living in the midst of unending gun violence
taking too many innocent lives across our country
and for those who are trying to do something, anything to help.

May your vision of life, peace, and justice be our vision and action.

We also lift up all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit,
those on our prayer list, those loved ones we hold in our hearts,
and those we do not know but, loving Healer, you do.

Please bless them with peace, comfort, and the healing
that you know they need through the gifts of medicine, hope,
love, listening, and prayer.

We give thanks for the good news that unfolds in the world
as people dream your dreams, follow your nudging,
and seek you in the faces they meet each day.

Perhaps, O God, it is the only Transfiguration we really need.

For all those who are quiet witness to your love and way of life,
we give thanks, O God.

(take a moment to give thanks for those who are a blessing in your life).

Open us to your light that we might see ourselves clearly,
with all our fears and faults and faith,
with all our desires and dreams and duties.

Help us to see our journey as a place of your appearing –
that like Peter, James, and John
we may come down from the mountain
and set one foot in front of the other
in your name and for your sake.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught his disciples to pray:
Our Father...Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

This is the time in our worship service that we remember that God is the giver of all life. Take a moment to thank God for the endless blessings showered upon you in this past week and reflect on what you will offer to God of your time, talents, and treasures in the coming week. Let us receive this morning's offering.

Doxology # 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

https://youtu.be/ILdeoa_2kdY - The St. Mary Magdalene Church Choir, Orange, California

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heavenly hosts;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

God of Transformation, we come together as those who have met you on the mountaintop. We have each had our holy encounters with you; and in those moments, we have wanted to stay on the mountain and retreat from the world. We know that is our longing, not yours. So, as we offer our gifts this morning in response to your blessings in our life, remind us that our mission begins as we leave this time of worship, and help us hold our memories of those mountaintop encounters with you in our hearts. We pray boldly in Jesus' name. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 546 *Lord, Dismiss us with Thy Blessings*

SICILIAN MARINERS

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (Michigan) Virtual Choir <https://youtu.be/aGzMd1i92lo>

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.**

**Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.**

**Savior, when your love shall call us,
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.**

Charge and Benediction:

Not all is as it seems:
there is a glory hidden in everything waiting to be revealed
to the eyes of those who believe
beyond what seems inevitable

who do not want to live in the status quo
but in the promises of God.

Hold onto the vision as we turn towards Lent
and walk the more difficult path;
there is yet a greater glory still to be revealed.
Go in peace, go in hope, go in love.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you and with God's beautiful and broken world.
Amen.