

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

March 02, 2014



TRANSFIGURATION

Gathering: *Clouds of confusion, clouds hiding our path, clouds making unclear the direction our life is to proceed. Then the clearing -- lifting of the fog, clarity of purpose, keen sight, the new course. Is this not also our story of journey up the hill? Our story of change? Of resolve? Come, let us worship.*

Hymn: Lord, speak to me

767

Prayer to begin worship: *Radiant God, source of light, as you surrounded Jesus with your glory, so you come to us in penetrating brightness. You catch us off guard and expose our weakness. We choose the limelight while you call us to explore the shadows and brighten the darkness. We seek the spectacular while you bind up the broken in countless acts of mercy. We seek to stay on the mountain or in a comfortable pew while you walk to the valleys of need.*

Radiant God, fill us with light and courage to carry good news into all the corners of the world and to bring back the joy of your presence. Amen

Hymn: When morning guilds the skies (1-2)

438

Scripture: **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."

Commentary: “The moment of transfiguration is one that invites us to new and meaningful encounters with God. How can Jesus be revealed in our time? When we have been to the mountaintop, how do we come down to ministry in the valleys as Jesus did, healing and teaching beyond the moment of change?”

Hymn: When morning guilds the skies (3-4) 438

Prayer: *Gracious God, we bow in gratitude for all the ways we have met you in the week that is past.*

We pause in this quiet moment to remember with gratitude:

A word of encouragement, (silence)

An insight of truth, (silence)

An answer to prayer, (silence)

Calm in the midst of stress, (silence)

The people you have sent to us who support or challenge us, (silence)

The work you have given us to do, (silence)

Moments of rest and relaxation. (silence)

Thank you loving God for all these signs that you love us, understand us and come to us.

As we remember mercies already received, we offer you our profound thankfulness for the command to bring before you the needs we see around us.

So in faith we pray for:

Our work place and our role within it, (silence)

Our family and circle of friends who we name before you now, (silence)

Those known to us with special needs, (silence)

One particular news item that has troubled us (silence)

Thank you for hearing our prayers and even now beginning to answer them. Grant that we may go from the place of worship in expectation, seeking to notice your hand at work in us and in our world. We offer our prayers through Jesus our Lord, Amen

Invitation: *Come to this table with the brilliance of Christ in your eyes and in your heart. Come to this table to see again who Jesus is for you, for the church and for the world. Come and taste the goodness of God in bread and wine. Come and be changed forever.*

Hymn: Arise your light is come (1-2) 712

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *May the God of mountaintops be with you. **And also with you.** Do not be afraid to come to our God. **We come, offering our hearts in joy and hope.** Here, at this Table, sing praises to God. **We rejoice, singing our thanks to the One who welcomes us here.** With all the host of heaven we sing the song of salvation. **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.** (Continue in prayer) *On the mountain he was transfigured, brighter than the sun, appearing with Moses and Elijah as witnesses of his glory as your beloved son. **Here before his temptation, ministry, passion, and suffering on the cross, you gave a foretaste of the resurrection, confirming in us the prophetic message of Emmanuel, "God with us."** We come to the Table where, by the presence of the Spirit, bread becomes the grace we need, the cup offers us the hope for which we long. Taking them up, you transfigure them into that sacred meal of love which strengthens us in Christ. Amen.**

Hymn: Arise your light is come (3-4) 712

Communion

Prayer following communion:

Benediction: Come down the mountain and go into the world that needs to see the light of Christ in you.

May God's beauty inspire you

May Christ's brilliance restore you

And may the joy of the Holy Spirit empower you to shine.