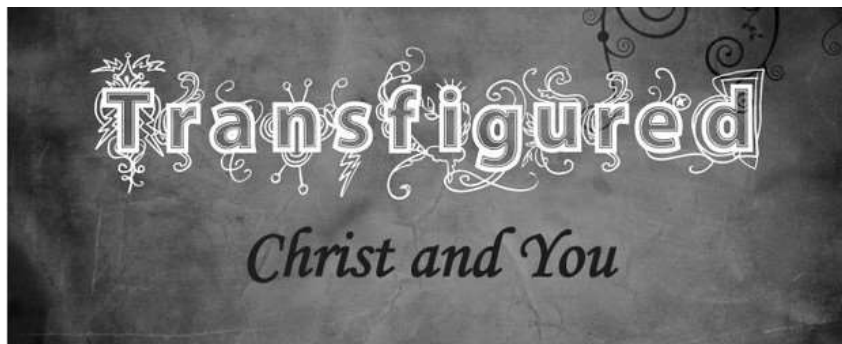


WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David  
February 07, 2016



# TRANSFIGURED

**Gathering:** *As we prepare for worship, God, bring us to the mountain top; bring us to the mountain top so that we may be inspired to do your work in the valley below.* (silence)

*Come to the mountain, you people of God. We come to hear God's Word. Come, you sisters, to proclaim God's greatness, for the Lord is righteous and just! Come, you brothers, to proclaim God's goodness, for the Lord is the Holy One! Come, one and all, to proclaim God's brilliance, for the Lord is clothed with light! Come, you people, to the mountain of God for we are gathered to worship our Lord!*

Prayer to guide us: *Reveal your presence to us this day, O God of light, love, and glory. As you did to your servants at the foot of the mountain, send your Spirit to show us your story. May the brilliance of your face illuminate this place as we dare to proclaim your Word... and may we, your people, be never unable to tell all of that we have heard.*

Hymn: Jesus on the mountain peak (1-2)

185

Prayer of Confession *Holy God, when you call us to hope and to act with great boldness, we tremble at your presence and cover our eyes. We are afraid of what we will see for your greatness unveils our weakness, your justice unveils our brokenness, and your holiness unveils our stained past. O Lord, hear our prayer. Giver of all grace, forgive us our sins. Give us the strength to renounce that which hides you from us. Give us the wisdom to execute justice and righteousness. Give us the courage to uncover our hearts that we might see the grace of your Son and not lose heart.*

*Silence is kept*

Assurance of Pardon: *God's Spirit is upon us: that Spirit of forgiveness, that Spirit of grace, that Spirit of unity with all people.*

Hymn: Jesus on the mountain peak (3-4)

185

Prayer of the Day *Holy God, in soft falling snow, we hear your joy; in the whisper of the wind, we hear your dreams for us; in the silence of a winter's night, we eavesdrop on your grace; in the cries of the poor, we hear your call to lives of compassion. Jesus Christ, Word made Perfect: as you overcome our obsession with our selves, our desires, gift us to serve others; as you simplify our souls with the grace of your good news, make us wise enough to live it; as you enchant our hopes with the wonder of your love, break our hearts so we might weep with those around us.*

*Holy Spirit, Cup of Living Water: if we are to suffer together, may we drink deeply from your tender tears; if we are to rejoice together, may we taste the strength of your hope and peace; if we are to pray together, may we feast on your love; if we are to worship together, may we join in listening to that Word which will transform and transfigure us forever.*

**Ponder the scripture: Luke 9:28-36** Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make

three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" - not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

*"Some painters transform the sun into a yellow spot; others transform a yellow spot into the sun." – Pablo Picasso*

**Bob Eldan writes...** "Sometimes our external appearance, especially of our face, hides what is deep within us. At other times our face radiates something of our true nature, the light deep within us. At the Transfiguration Jesus' face was transformed. "The appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white." (Luke 9:29) In Matthew's account it says his face shone like the sun. Either way we get the impression of shining brightness. Through this luster comes clarity for Peter, James and John. They got a glimpse of who Jesus was. It was not a cognitive revelation like a credo statement. They probably could not put it into words. It was rather an experiential recognizing, knowing or connecting. Can we also see this in each other? How can we ever experience Jesus as the light if we can't see the deep luminosity in those we encounter every day? We look at people and all we see is a yellow spot rather than seeing the sun. This is not simply the fault of the other person as if he or she were somehow in hiding. It may be due to our inexperience in visioning. We often only see the dull external. Experience is gained in practice. Let us look at each other anew, over and over again. Perhaps when other people find themselves being recognized they might just smile and glow more. And so might we. Dazzling each other becomes reciprocal. With this back and forth recognizing of each other we all become more like Christ on the mountain top.

**How do we integrate our glimpses of God's love, our tastes of God's glory, into the everydayness of our lives?**

Hymn: Open our Eyes, Lord

445

#### **Invitation:**

*The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Come, everything is ready.*

You came down into chaos, Lord our God,  
creation cradled in your arms:  
mountaintops where we could meet you,  
valleys where we could serve your people,  
green meadows where we could dance with you in joy.  
You shaped us in your image, hoping  
we might forever in your wondrous grace,  
but we felt it was better to live  
where sin and death could be found.  
You continued to speak to us through  
those men and women named prophets,  
who encouraged us return to your side,  
yet we were afraid to come near  
to your forgiveness and hope.  
So you became flesh and blood  
for our sake, coming as the One  
who would reveal salvation to us.

With those who gather on mountaintops and by the sea,  
with those who are afraid to draw close  
and those who eagerly run towards you,  
we offer songs of thanksgiving in these moments:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God enthroned on our praises.  
Creation joins in one voice in singing to you.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who came down with grace in his hands.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

You alone are holy, Everlasting God,  
and blessed is your Child, Jesus, who took off  
veil's glory that we might see you face to face.  
He could have remained aloof,  
yet was willing to get down  
in the grittiness of our everyday lives.  
He could have walked among us  
without a care to the world,  
but was willing to be weighed down  
with the burdens of our fears and doubts.

He could have begged for an easy passing,  
yet took up the cross meant for us,  
entering into the mists of death where,  
by removing its mask, we saw it  
for the empty threat it truly is to us.

As we remember how you called him your Beloved,  
as we rejoice that we are his chosen friends,  
we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, that the veil of our fears might be removed;**  
**Christ was raised, so we might see the glory of the resurrection;**  
**Christ will come, so we might live as your own forever.**

Pour out your Spirit of life upon us  
as we gather around the Table,  
for it is here we find the gifts  
of which you spoke so long ago.

As we are fed by the Bread of life,  
we will not lose heart,  
but go forth to boldly:

holding the hand of a scared child,  
bathing the fevered brow of a senior,  
lifting up all who have had their dreams  
dashed to the ground.

As we drink deeply from the Cup of grace,  
we will not be weighed down by fears,  
but go out into the world

to being light into the shadowed corners,  
to carry hope to all who have none,  
to set the oppressed free.

And when the veil of time is finally removed,  
when we see your glory revealed as grace,  
we will join our sisters and brothers  
from every time and of every place,  
enthroning you on our resounding praises,  
God in Community, Holy in One,  
forever and ever. Amen.

*As we gather together before your Table,  
pour out your Spirit upon these gifts  
of the bread and the cup,  
and all who have come to be fed.*

*Just as the bread is broken into many parts,  
so your grace makes us into one people,  
our hearts open to serve all in need,  
our lives offered so that others might be healed.  
Just as the cup is filled to overflowing  
with the sweet taste of hope,  
so our gifts are emptied so that all might be blessed,  
our joy shared with the despairing of our word.*

*And when you gather us together at the Feast to come,  
when we sit down at the Table with our sisters and brothers,  
we will bow our heads and worship you forever,  
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen*

### **Responsive Reading of Psalm 19**

*The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.*

**Look to the mountains and see everlastingness...**

*Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.*

**Search both day and night and watch for the glory of it...**

*There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;*

**Listen to the silence and hear wonder speak...**

*yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.*

**Look to the horizon to hear a word about eternity...**

*In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a beloved from a wedding canopy,  
and like a strong athlete runs its course with joy.*

**Look to the sunrise and enjoy God's forever-promise...**

*Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hid from its heat.*

**Look to the seasons and live God's rhythm...**

*The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul;*

*the decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple;*

**Look to creation's order and accept its wisdom...**

*the precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart;*

*the commandment of God is clear,*

*enlightening the eyes;*

**Look to justice and truth and feel their light...**

*the fear of God is pure, enduring forever;*

*the ordinances of God are true*

*and righteous altogether.*

**Look to the word and recognise its call...**

*More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;*

*sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.*

**Look to God's commandments and taste their sweetness...**

*Moreover by them is your servant warned;*

*in keeping them there is great reward.*

**Look to creation's order and know justice...**

*But who can detect their errors?*

*Clear me from hidden faults.*

**Look to grace and know its forgiveness...**

*Keep back your servant also from the insolent;*

*do not let them have dominion over me.*

**Look to what brings life and live its example...**

*Then I shall be blameless,*

*and innocent of great transgression.*

**Look to God's covenant and know its love...**

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart*

*be acceptable to you, O God, my rock and my redeemer.*

**The heavens are telling the glory of God.**

*~ written by Roddy Hamilton*

Hymn: O Lord my God (vs 1)

332

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The God of mountaintops be with you.*

**And also with you.** *Come, People of God, to the One who will transfigure your hearts. We offer them to God, who will make them dazzle with*

**grace.** *Let us join in singing glad songs of hope to our God. Our voices*

**rejoice in glad thanksgiving to the One who comes to us.**

*whom alone we trust. Rejoice in the Lord always Shout out his name.*

*(we continue in prayer) Pour out your Spirit upon the gifts of remembrance*

*and the people who come from the four corners of life. Every time we eat the*

*bread, we are strengthened to take the gifts from your garden of plenty, to share with all who hunger. Every time we take a sip of the wine of hope, our eyes are opened and we see the marginalized in the shadows and go out to gather them up and bring them to your table.*

Hymn: I come with Joy (1-2)

543

## Communion

**Prayer following communion** O God of communion and covenant, the cloud of your splendour and the fire of your love revealed your Son on the mountain heights. **Transform our lives in his image, write your law of love on our hearts, and make us prophets of your glory, that we may lead others into your presence. Amen.**

Hymn: Lead me Jesus

646

*Leader: Go from this mountain, you people of God. We go with the wisdom of God's Word. Go from this mountain, you sisters in Christ.*

**Women: We will go and follow the Lord.** *Go from this mountain, you brothers in Christ. We will go and follow the King. Go from this mountain, each and every one in Christ. We will go and follow the Holy One.* Go from this mountain, and go forth in the Spirit. **We will go for Christ shows the way.**

Hymn: Lord, dismiss us (verse 1)

468

*Come down from the mountain with mountain-like faith. Walk on God's paths as bright, shining lights. Live in God's ways with faith, hope, and love.*

*Go into the world transformed and renewed!*