



## Order of worship

### Transfiguration of the Lord

**February 14, 2021**

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#### **Call to worship** *(from Psalm 50)*

God speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Our God comes and does not keep silence.**

God calls to the heavens above and to the earth,  
that God may bring justice to God's people.

**The heavens declare God's right and just relations  
for all of the people of the earth.**

#### **Call to confession**

In the transfiguration story, Jesus' clothes became dazzling white, a sign of resurrection out of the violence the world inflicted upon him. Resurrection reminds us that the brokenness of the world and of our lives will not have the last word. God's love, compassion and justice will not be conquered. So, let us make the good confession before God and one another.

#### **Prayer of confession**

Merciful God, even when we see your love and justice transfigured before us, we cower in our fear of what it would mean to follow your way in the world. We wonder what it might cost us to be disciples of Jesus. Help us to listen to Jesus. Empower us to be formed by his life. Restore in us the confidence to be Jesus' disciples. Amen.

#### **Assurance of pardon**

Just as a cloud overshadowed the disciples in the transfiguration story and just as they heard a voice say that Jesus is God's beloved, so too are we God's beloved people. Be forgiven and restored to our right standing as beloved of God.



## Prayer of illumination

God of transfiguring light, show us your Word as we read the words of Scripture today, so that your will and way can illumine our paths. Amen.

## Scripture readings

## Sermon

### Affirmation of faith *(from The Belhar Confession)*

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.**

**We believe**

- that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;
- that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;
- that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;
- that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;
  - ◆ in that we love one another;
  - ◆ that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;
  - ◆ that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another;
  - ◆ that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind.



### **Call for the offering**

God is the giver of life and the resources therein. Let us now dedicate our lives and resources to the Holy One in whom we live and move and have our being.

### **Prayer of dedication**

We give you thanks, O God, for the gifts we have received from your good creation. We now ask your blessing upon the gifts we offer here today, so that they might be a sign of our commitment to serve you in all that we are and do. Amen.

### **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

O Lord our God, Christ has been transfigured before us on a mountaintop. You have revealed your way to us in Christ. The way of the cross and resurrection calls us to be agitators of nonviolence in our world in all that we do and say. Indeed, in the power of Christ you have enabled us to be your peace in our world. In Jesus' crucifixion, the violence of our world has been revealed as contrary to your way of peace. Transfigure us by your Spirit and shape us by your love and justice to be disciples of Christ in our weary and broken world.

In your Spirit, O God, form us in the liberating power displayed in Moses, in the prophetic witness of Elijah and in the body of Christ who was raised from the dead to bring newness of life in the church and world. Let our lives shine like the transfigured Christ so that we might be a blessing to those that struggle, a hope to the dying and a sign of your new creation.

And as we continue to struggle with this pandemic and the social ills it has exposed, we pray that you would bestow courage to healthcare workers and those facilitating vaccinations. We ask a special measure of wisdom for the leadership of our country and world that they might discern the path to bring aid to the afflicted. And may we be agents of your love for those within our churches and in our communities. We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, *Our Father...*



### **Charge and benediction**

Hear the voice from the cloud saying to each and to all:

“You are my beloved”

So beloved of God,

Listen to Christ,

Follow in the way of Christ.

Resist evil,

Love one another,

As God in Christ has loved you. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Roger Gench  
and provided for free distribution.

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