



Order of Worship

Transfiguration Sunday
February 19, 2023

Call to worship (from Psalm 99)

O Lord, you are a lover of justice,

You seek equity and have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

We praise your great and awesome name,

We come to worship you at your holy mountain.

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 sins of the world and of our lives will not have the last word. God's love, compassion and justice will be established on the earth. So let us confess before God and one another.

Prayer of confession

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

Assurance of pardon

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

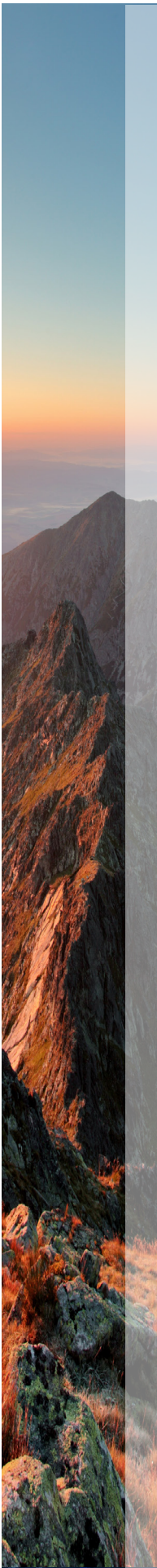
Prayer for illumination

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. Amen.

Call for the offering

God is the giver of life and the resources therein. Let us now dedicate our lives and resources to the God 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.

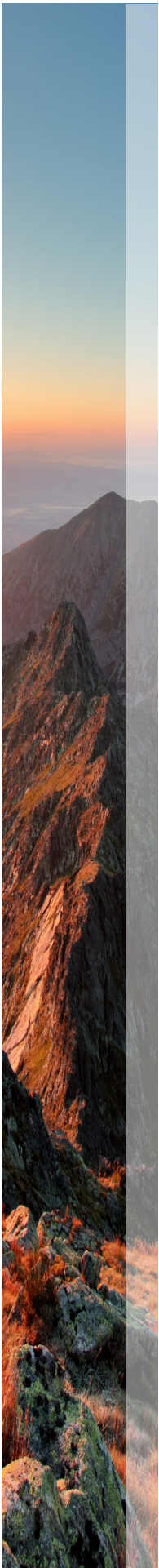
Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

O Lord our God, Christ has been transfigured before us on a high mountain. You have revealed your way to us in Christ. The way of the cross and resurrection calls us to be agitators of non-violence, love and justice in our world. Indeed, in the power of Christ you have enabled us to be your peace in our world. In his crucifixion, the violence of our world has been exposed as contrary to your way of justice. Transfigure us by your Spirit and shape us by your love to be disciples of Christ in our weary and broken world.

In your Spirit, O God, form us to be the liberating life that was displayed in Moses, the prophetic witness of Elijah, and the risen Christ who established the new creation 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 resurrection life.

And as we continue to struggle with gun violence in our communities, we pray that you would give us wisdom to know how to leave peaceably on our world. We ask a special measure of wisdom for the leadership of





our country and world that they might discern the path to end violence and war. 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
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