



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 2, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

FOR WORSHIP

Today is Transfiguration Sunday, which marks the last Sunday before the season of Lent. The Gospel lesson provides a vivid description of a mountaintop transformation, where Jesus's face was changed and his garments became dazzling white in the presence of disciples Peter, James, and John. The appearance of both Moses and Elijah at the Transfiguration reminds us that Jesus stands in line with the great leaders of Israel. It also symbolizes Jesus's fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets through his life, death, and resurrection.

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

We are glad to have you join us for worship. If you are new to First, it is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God while you are here. At First, it is our hope that all who enter find a home.

PRELUDE

Partita on "Deo Gracias"

Michael Burkhardt

Janice Robison, organist

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Keith Wiens

L: In life and in death, we belong to God;

P: through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,

L: we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,

P: whom alone we worship and serve.

L: Let us worship God!

*HYMN 75

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

DEO GRACIAS

**1 O wondrous sight, O vision fair
of glory that the church shall share,
which Christ upon the mountain shows,
where brighter than the sun he glows!**

**2 From age to age the tale declare,
how with the three disciples there,
where Moses and Elijah meet,
the Lord holds converse high and sweet.**

**3 The law and prophets there have place,
two chosen witnesses of grace;
the Father's voice from out the cloud
proclaims his only Son aloud.**

**4 With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today
what glory shall be theirs above
who joy in God with perfect love.**

**5 And faithful hearts are raised on high
by this great vision's mystery,
for which in joyful strains we raise
the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Liturgist Wiens

We trust in you, O God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love you created the world good and make everyone equally in your image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against you; we hide from you, our Creator. Ignoring your commandments, we violate your image in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve your condemnation, O God. Yet you act with justice and mercy to redeem creation. Amen.

In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

We express gratitude that through God's grace and Christ's giving of himself on the cross we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.

Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. We invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

The sermon is a reflection on the day's scriptures, suggesting implications for our faith and life.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news.

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri - 579

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen and Amen.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you!

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Barb Martin

ANTHEM

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

arr. Mark Hays

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in His blood.
For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple, we would take Him at His Word;
And our lives would be all sunshine, in the sweetness of our Lord.*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Wiens

Holy Jesus, give us grace to perceive your glory as you illuminate your word, that we may be strengthened to suffer with you and be changed into your likeness, from glory to glory. In your name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Exodus 34: 29-35 (page 81 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Wiens

Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43) (page 69 in pew Bible)

Rev. Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Transfigured

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

*HYMN 73

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

GENEVA

1 Swiftly pass the clouds of glory,
heaven's voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish;
Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent,
turning from the summit's rise
downward toward the shadowed valley
where their Lord has fixed his eyes.

2 Glimpsed and gone the revelation,
they shall gain and keep its truth,
not by building on the mountain
any shrine or sacred booth,
but by following the Savior
through the valley to the cross
and by testing faith's resilience
through betrayal, pain, and loss.

3 Lord, transfigure our perception
with the purest light that shines,
and recast our life's intentions
to the shape of your designs,
till we seek no other glory
than what lies past Calvary's hill
and our living and our dying
and our rising by your will.

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

On behalf of the congregation, the Pastor expresses the corporate prayers of the congregation. These prayers are for world, local and personal concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Martin

Choral Response #585: *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*

THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* Janice Robison, organist

Wilbur Held

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison) Liturgist Wiens
O most merciful and gracious God, from your open hand we have received much: accept the offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it. Remember those who will benefit from it. Through your blessing may it promote peace, justice, and goodness for all. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: *The Lord be with you.*

P: **And also with you.**

L: *Lift up your hearts.*

P: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER **L:** *It is truly right and our greatest joy.....who forever sing to the glory of your name:*

Holy, Holy, Holy

Tim Keyes

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly; ho - ly, ho-ly, ho - ly; Lord God of pow'r and might;

Hea-ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry! Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est,

Blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Words of Institution

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Amazing God, you come into our ordinary lives and set a holy table among us, filling our plates with the bread of life and our cups with salvation. Send us out, O God, with tenderheartedness to touch an ordinary, everyday world with the promise of your holiness. Amen.

***HYMN 474** *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

1 O splendor of God's glory bright,
from light eternal bringing light;
O Light of Light, light's living spring,
true Day, all days illumining:

2 Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
rain down your radiance from above,

and to our inward hearts convey
the Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.

3 O joyful be the passing day
with thoughts as clear as morning's ray,
with faith like noontide shining bright,
our souls unshadowed by the night.

4 O Lord, with each returning morn,
your image to our heart is born;
O may we ever clearly view
our Savior and our God in you.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Choral Response #586: *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*

POSTLUDE

Agincourt Hymn (Deo Gracias)
Janice Robison, organist

Charles Callahan

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"
Bell Choir
Anna Crum, director

arr. Arnold B. Sherman

Deacon of the Month of March - Joyce Mullins

(740) 590-0322 - joyce.mullins1@icloud.com - *A friend to phone with joys or concerns*

Communion Prep: Lois Harkins and Kim Jordan

Ushers: Kim Jordan and Carol Perry

Communion Servers: Lois Harkins, Adrienne Nagy, Sandy Nesbitt, and Harold Robison,

Fellowship Hour: Carolyn Allen

Shrove Tuesday on March 4th-Who doesn't like breakfast for dinner? Come and celebrate Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday on March 4th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with pancakes and sausage for dinner. We will have King cake to enjoy for dessert. The name Shrove comes from the old word "shrive" which means to confess. In the Middle Ages, people would confess their sins on Shrove Tuesday to begin the penitent Lenten season with a clean slate! Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as repentance. Lent is historically a time of giving things up, so Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge. Pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter and eggs (significant, flavorful food groups which were forbidden during Lent).

*Weekly Worship
Service can be seen
live on Sunday
Morning*

You can access
them directly on
the FPC YouTube
channel
and on the church
web site under
Worship Archive.

Youtube - [https://
www.youtube.com
/c/
FirstPresbyterian
ChurchAthensOH/](https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstPresbyterianChurchAthensOH/)

Minister: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart
CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease Administrative Assistant: Debbie Perry
Organist: Janice Robison Bell Choir Director: Anna Crum Choir Director: Dr. David Tadlock

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