

**March 3, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

In the midst of a world in turmoil, God’s glory is revealed in Christ’s experience on the mountaintop and in our lives today. Hear these words of hope – *“We have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn’t come from us. We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren’t crushed. We are confused, but we aren’t depressed. We are harassed, but we aren’t abandoned. We are knocked down, but we aren’t knocked out.”* (2 Corinthians 4:7-9, CEV)

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music Hymnal 173 Christ, whose glory fills the skies** (seated) *Ratisbon*

**Good News Acclamation**  *James J. Chepponis*

Cantor sings first: **Praise and honor to you. Praise and honor to you.**

 **Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Greeting**

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me,

**People: and let us exalt God’s name together!**  *Psalm 34:3*

**Announcements**

**Choral Introit**  10:45 This is my beloved Son *Knut Nystedt*

He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them,

 and a voice from the cloud said:

 ‘This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.’

**Call to Worship**

Leader: We, who live in the shelter of the Most High . . .

**People: Let us come and trust in our God. God’s word is near us, on our lips and in our hearts.**

Leader: We, who trust in God’s promises . . . let us come and rejoice in the power of the Spirit.

**People: The Holy One is our refuge and our strength. We have come to worship the One who calls us!**

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 258 O wondrous sight! O vision fair** (standing) *Wareham*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**God of signs and wonders, God of power and love, God of breath and life, you make no distinctions between us – distinctions of ethnic origin or race, gender or identity, riches or poverty. All who believe in you will be saved. In you, we learn to trust the changing seasons – giving thanks as winter turns to spring, as long, dark nights give way to brighter days. In you, we find the courage to turn away from all that is false, rejoicing instead in the constancy of your love. You, who are our rock and our redeemer, save us from falling into temptation, as we turn our hearts to you. Amen.** *Deborah Sokolove*

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3159 Let our earth be peaceful** (stanza 3, standing)*Raymond* **Let our lives be fruitful, beautiful and playful,**

 **every day be thankful for the love of God.**

 **… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**Open Our Hearts March Emphasis** Gifts John Esaias

 **Open our lives and freely give Silently now we wait for thee**

**So that your loved ones freely live. Ready our God your will to see**

**And as our gifts spread through all the Earth Open our lives, illumine us**

**May the receivers gain new birth. Spirit divine.**

**The Sign of Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Gathering Song**

 **This, this is where children belong,**

 **Welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.**

 **Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:**

 **This is where children belong.** WORDS AND MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

 (All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward.)

After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the Sanctuary near the end of the service, and parents may meet them.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Kathy Tremblay 10:45 Sara Knabb

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:12 The Greater Glory of God’s Covenant

**Response**

 Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** (standing) *James J. Chepponis*

 Cantor sings first: **Praise and honor to you. Praise and honor to you.**

 **Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Scripture Reading

**A Lesson from the Gospel**

 Luke 9:28-36 The Transfiguration

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory Duet** 8:30 Here I am, Lord *Daniel Schutte; arr. Lloyd Larson*

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 Jesus on the Mountain Peak *Michael Burkhardt*

**Hymnal 95 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow** (standing) *Old 100th*

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “Down, But not Out!” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Worship & Song 3169 You feed us, gentle Savior** (stanza 2, seated) *Merle’s Tune*

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

 **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

 **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

 **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words . . .)* Therefore, with your people in all ages and the whole company of heaven, we join in the song of unending praise, singing:

***[Musical Setting E, U.M. Hymnal, p. 25]***

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words. . .)* Through him, with him, in him, in all the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

***[Musical Setting E, U.M. Hymnal, p. 25]***

**AMEN.**

**Giving the Bread & Cup**

**Prayer following Communion**

God of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son

and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

 **… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymn: Song of the Transfiguration** *Picardy, adapted by David Haas*

 1. (Solo) Transform us as you, transfigured, stood apart on Tabor’s height.

 Lead us up our sacred mountains, search us with revealing light.

 Lift us from where we have fallen, full of questions, filled with fright.

 **2. (All) Transform us as you, transfigured, once spoke with those holy ones.**

 **We, surrounded by the witness of those saints whose work is done,**

 **Live in this world as your Body, chosen daughters, chosen sons.**

 **3. (All) Transform us as you, transfigured, would not stay within a shrine.**

 **Keep us from our great temptation time and truth we quickly bind.**

 **Lead us down those daily pathways where our love is not confined.**

**Benediction**

**Song of the Transfiguration** *Picardy, adapted by David Haas*

 **3. (All)…Lead us down those daily pathways where our love is not confined.**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar**  are given by Rosalie Peters in loving memory of her husband Vaughn, her son Vaughn, her daughter Debra, and her son Paul.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given in memory of Neil Birks, a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

**Special music for the 8:30 service** is provided by the Rev. Kimberly Greway and John Esaias.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir with soloists Kathleen Whittaker and Kirby Dilworth, conducted by Julia Scott, a member of the choir and a professional harpist active with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and teaching at Grove City College.

**Acolytes** Anastasia Sunder and Addison Alexander

**Greeters 8:30** Bradley Shoff **10:45** David and Vicki Danielson

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:12**

12 Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, 13not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. 14But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. 15Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; 16but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.17Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

**Treasure in Clay Jars**

4Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. 3And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. 6For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. 8We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;10always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. 11For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. 12So death is at work in us, but life in you.

**Luke 9:28-36**

**The Transfiguration**

28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32Now 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.33Just 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. 34While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!’ 36When 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.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. Beginning March 1, the cost is $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium arrangements, and $66 for the chancel flowers.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore, Jean Boyer,

Mary Caldwell, John Dean,

Joseph Festor, Leon Grant, Jr.,

Dave Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

George Lindow, Sara Mercer,

Diane Shaw, Jinny Sheppard,

Ruth Seip, Carol Van Sickle, George

Lindow

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz,
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell,

Sgt. Brendan Lamport,
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda,
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz,
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes,
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller,

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller,
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski,

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, MARCH 3 THRU SATURDAY, MARCH 9**

**SUNDAY 3/3**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages/Coffee Café Various/Brookline Parlor

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 11:50 am Youth Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

 12 pm Blood Pressure Screening Brookline Parlor

 5 pm Youth Group Asbury

**MONDAY 3/4**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7 pm Church Council Meeting Wesley

**TUESDAY 3/5**

6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury

 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

**WEDNESDAY 3/6**

 6:30 – 9:00 am Ash Wednesday Silent Communion with ashes Sanctuary

 7:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Asbury Kitchen

 7 pm Ash Wednesday Communion Service with ashes Sanner Chapel

**THURSDAY 3/7**

 8:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Asbury Kitchen

6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 3/8**

 4 – 7 pm Fish Fry Asbury

 7 pm Pack 870 Arrow of Light Meeting Epworth

**SATURDAY 3/9**

 8 am It’s A Guy Thing Wesley