

*Grace Community Presbyterian Church*  
*February, 19 2023*



**TRANSFIGURATION**

## Thought for Meditation:

[On the mountain] Jesus withdraws with a few of his friends. There, with them in a lonely place, Jesus is transfigured with a flash. A cloud surrounds all of them – an immersion into the wonders of God. For a moment of revelation, mysteries glimpsed in a blink of an eye. Soon they return to the everyday, but now they have eyes to see the promises of God: the world alive with hope. *Isaac S. Villegas*

**Prelude** Partita on “Innocents” Haan

**Welcome and Announcements** Doug Marshall

**Moment For Ministry** Pastor Nominating Committee Kellie Newcomb

**Call To Worship** Exodus 3:2-5 Henry Kedzierski

L: An angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of a bush.

**P: The bush was on fire but did not burn up.**

L: God called to Moses from within the bush:

**P: “Moses! Moses!”**

L: Moses said, “Here I am.”

**P: Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.**

L: As we gather for worship, we are on holy ground.

**\* Hymn of Praise** Holy Ground #138 & 217

We are standing on holy ground,

And I know that there are angels all around.

Let us praise Jesus now;

We are standing in His presence on holy ground. (repeat)

This is holy ground; We’re standing on holy ground,

For the Lord is present and where He is is holy. (repeat)

These are holy hands; He’s given us holy hands.

He works through these hands and so these hands are holy. (repeat)

## Prayer of Confession

Most amazing God, the mystery of your radiance surrounds us. Like the disciples of Jesus, we confess our unease with transcendent mystery. Faced with your splendor, we do not take time for attentive silence as Jesus did. Instead, we evade your holiness by filling our busy lives. We also confess those times when we are too comfortable with your holiness, assuming that we are holy, rather than admitting that we are sinners in need of your grace.

Forgive us, O God, and transform our lives that we may live in a way that honors your name and shares your glory. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior...

*Silent Prayer of Confession*

**Assurance of Forgiveness** Exodus 33:19

L: On the mountain God spoke to Moses:

**P: "I will make all my goodness pass before you."**

L: "I will proclaim before you my name, 'The LORD.'"

**P: "I will be gracious and show your mercy."**

L: Grace Church, believe the good news:

**P: Through Jesus Christ we are given!**

**ALL: Alleluia! Praise the Lord.**

**\* Passing of the Peace**

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

*Please pass the peace of Christ to your neighbors in the pews and introduce yourself to those you do not know.*

**\* Glory Be To the Father**

#813

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. Amen.

**Old Testament Lesson**

Exodus 34:29-35 (Page 77)

**Anthem**

One Thing I Ask the Lord (Jaeschke)

Chancel Choir

One thing I ask the Lord, one thing I desire, I ask of the Lord, that I may always remain in the house of the Lord for all my life

One thing I ask the Lord, one thing I desire, I ask of the Lord, that I may always remain in his house, the house of the Lord, in his blessed house all my living days. (Ps 27:4)

**New Testament Lesson**

Matthew 17:1-8 (page 851)

**Sermon**

Transfiguration – The Mysterious Presence of God

**\* Hymn of Response**

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

See Insert

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended to heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer** (debts, debtors)

**Call for Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** Fairest Lord Jesus Innes

**\* Doxology** #166

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

**\* Hymn of Dedication** Shine, Jesus, Shine #431

**\* Charge and Benediction**

**\* Congregational Response** Shine, Jesus, Shine (Refrain) #431

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

**\* Postlude** Fugue in G minor Bach

The Prayer of Confession is adapted and reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition*, © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

Doug Marshall would like to thank The Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes for some of the ideas for this sermon.

**\*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

## **Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church**

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us for worship. Terri Ludwig will be your greeter today. There will be no Coffee Fellowship after worship today.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS...**The GCPC Member and Friends Directory has been updated. The directories are located on the table in the narthex; please take a copy. If needed, additional copies will be printed for next week.

**CHICKEN PIE DINNER...**Hope you can join us for our annual Chicken Pie Dinner today @ 5:00pm in Cana Hall.

### **LOOKING FOR SUBSTITUTE CHURCH SECRETARIES FROM APRIL 17 TO APRIL 20**

Just like the favorite teacher from your school days, Wendy needs to have a day off occasionally from her role as Grace Church Secretary.

Grace Church needs a couple of volunteers as a pool of friendly faces to be available for a few hours on those days. This could be as little as a couple of hours on a day when you could be free.

This volunteer job would be light duty work including greeting visitors, answering the phone, checking email and the mailbox. If an emergency occurs, it could mean passing on an important message or just being the person that has a kind word at a difficult time for a person in need.

There will be "how to" instructions to follow and "call a friend" phone numbers left on Wendy's desk as backup. We would see that you have any needed orientation so that you are comfortable with the office.

Your help to keep the church office open is an important way for you to be a part of God's work through the mission of Grace Church. Please call the office or speak with Cathy Brady with questions and to volunteer.

**TODAY'S MUSIC:** Raymond Haan composed our prelude, variations on the hymn tune *Innocents*. This tune is used with multiple hymns, but Haan specified “**Songs of Praise the Angels Sang.**”

The divine is man's highest object of wonder and gratitude, and our most powerful mover for song. When Israel worshiped at the Temple, the people did not simply say words. They sang. We have their great songbook, the Psalms, passed down over many generations. In *Paradise Lost*, when the still innocent Adam and Eve look at the evening sky and the stars beginning to appear, Adam says that what they are beholding is as one great and mysterious song:

*Millions of spiritual Creatures walk the Earth  
Unseen, both when we wake, and when we sleep:  
All these with ceaseless praise his works behold  
Both day and night: how often from the steep  
Of echoing Hill or Thicket have we heard  
Celestial voices to the midnight air,  
Divide the night, and lift our thoughts to Heaven.*

That's the wonder of the hymn, “Songs of Praise the Angels Sang.” Its first stanzas take us from creation, when, according to the Book of Job, the sons of morning sang out for joy, to the nativity of the Lord, when the hosts of heaven sang that night, to the triumph of Easter, when the risen Christ led captivity captive. What, then, comes next? The very end of time, when, as the hymn writer tells us, “heaven and earth shall pass away,” and we hear that “songs of praise shall greet that day.” In the meantime, shall we be quiet? No, says the poet, echoing Paul, for the “church delights to raise Psalms and hymns and songs of praise.” Our lives on earth are a sort of singing school. We learn here what true joy is.

*Saints below, with heart and voice, Still in songs of praise rejoice,  
Learning here, by faith and love, Songs of praise to sing above.*

(from notes by Anthony Esolen)

**This Week's Calendar  
February 19 - 25**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday School (all ages)</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	<b>Deacons Meeting</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
	<b>Chicken Pie Dinner</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Presidents Day</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>1:00am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	

**CrossCurrents will be mailed out. If you would like to put anything in CrossCurrents, please get it to the office by Monday morning. You can leave a copy on Wendy's desk or send it to her by email: [secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org).**

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Men's Club</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Cub Scouts Blue &amp; Gold Banquet</b>	

**Looking Ahead  
February 26 - March 4**

<b>February 26</b>	<b>Sunday School (all ages)</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>February 27</b>	<b>Session Meeting</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>February 28</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>March 1</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>March 2</b>	<b>Ladies Club</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>March 3</b>	<b>World Day of Prayer</b>	

**CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Grace Community Presbyterian Church  
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068  
(724) 339-9661  
Website: [www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](http://www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)

Worship Service is at 10:00am

**Church Staff:**

Pastor: Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor  
[doug@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:doug@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)

Secretary: Wendy Stein Clark  
[secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)

Christian Ed.: Bill Ludwig

Organist: Kenneth McGeary

Treasurer: Ray Zerjav

Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zunich

**Elders**

Reitha Bieranoski  
Cathy Brady  
Cathy Christoforetti  
Ben Edwards  
David Highfield  
Dan Howard  
Henry Kedzierski  
Val Lester  
John Napierski  
Sharon Rupert  
Stephanie Tutka  
Cathy Vitari (clerk)

**Deacons**

Darlene Artman  
Rich Artman  
Gary Barbiaux  
Judy Barbiaux  
Elsie Deem  
Margie Bistline  
Beulah Brown  
Jackie Chickerella  
Cindy Irvin (moderator)  
Terri Ludwig  
Lavonne Pelisari  
Debbie Roskey  
Mary Ann Walter  
Lou Walter  
Shirley Wilson