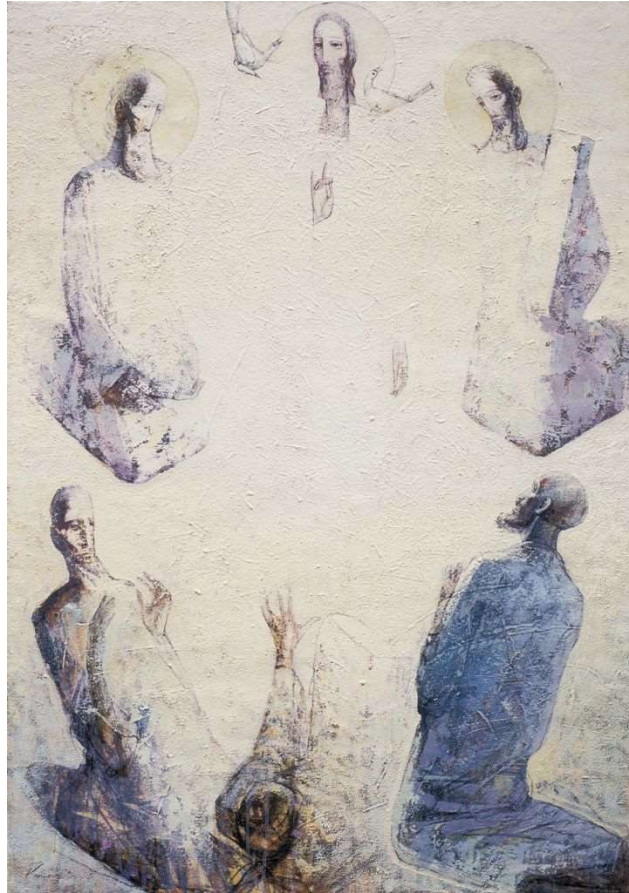


Sunday, February 19, 2023

Transfiguration Sunday

First Presbyterian Church, Petaluma, CA



“This is my Son, the Beloved...listen to him!”
Matthew 17:5

PRELUDE

Jenny Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor John

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

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

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

Mike Roberts

We light these candles to remind ourselves of God's presence, not only in this place, but in all places. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us go up the mountain.

Let us go up to the place where the land meets the sky,
where the earth touches the heavens,
to the place of meeting,
to the place of mists,
to the place of voices and conversations,
to the place of listening and vision.

PRAYER AND SILENT LISTENING TO GOD

Let us pray. O God, in the transfiguration of your Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah. In the voice from the cloud you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us, with Christ, heirs of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In our worship, may Christ be revealed to us in the message of the prophets and the witness of the apostles, that we may hear his voice and receive him in faith. In these few moments of silence, let us prepare your hearts for worship.

HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rules in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou gives , to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.
Thou reignest in glory; thou dwells in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Mike Roberts

In trust, let us call upon God's holy name,
confess our sin, and receive forgiveness.

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ we behold your transforming light, yet we continue to live in the darkness. Preoccupied with ourselves, we fail to see your work in the world. We speak when we should listen, we act when we should reflect. Empower us to live in your light and to walk in your ways, for the sake of him who is the light of the world, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence, a time for personal confession.

From stable and mountain, from cross and empty tomb,
God's glory has shone forth in love, that we might know
ourselves forgiven, that we might experience our own
nature transformed, and that we might welcome the
transfigured body of Christ into our own. In Jesus Christ,
our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

THE OFFERING

Pastor John

***DOXOLOGY** (or in your preferred version)

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.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 24:12-18

Mike Roberts

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But

Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

Pastor John

OUR PRAYERS TO GOD

Prayers of thanksgiving and petition may be offered, followed by:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(or in your preferred version)*

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.

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!

God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee.

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee

Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Tho 'the darkness hide Thee,
Tho 'the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
Perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity!

***CHARGE**

***CLOSING RESPONSE**

From where we are
to where you need us,

Jesus, now lead on.

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you will reveal,

Jesus, now lead on.

To refashion the fabric of this world
until it resembles the shape of your reign,

Jesus, now lead on.

Because good things have been prepared
for those who love God,

Jesus, now lead on.

Surround us with your presence,
inspire us with your purpose,
confirm us in your love.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

***CLOSING SONG** *Go Now in Peace*

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know he will guide you in all you do.

Worship Leaders: Pastor John Chase, Mike Roberts, Music Director Jane Shelly,
Accompanist Jenny Smith, Student Ministries and Events Coordinator Grete Hansen

Credits

Art: Ventsislav Piriankov (Bulgarian Polish, 1971–), "Transfiguration."

Call to Worship from CREDO Worship and Reflection Book, May 13-19, 2014.

Closing Response adapted from *A Wee Worship Book, Fourth Incarnation*, 2002, Wild Goose Worship Group, GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, 1999, p. 24, 79.

Music: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*, TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt., MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; arr. *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839.

Music: *Holy, Holy, Holy*, ©Public Domain, Reginald Heber & John B. Dykes.

Music: *Go Now In Peace*, TEXT: Don Besig and Nancy Price, MUSIC: Don Besig, © 1988, Harold Flammer Music, a Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.