

Trinitarian Congregational Church
TakeOut
Last Sunday of Epiphany
February 14, 2021

Bells <https://youtu.be/-6qZ9A6GFik>

Announcements There will be a Lenten Study on Wednesdays 3 pm on Zoom. Contact Rosemary for materials (FYI, if you can't join us you can use them privately.) Ash Wed service is 7 pm this Wednesday, Feb 17. We will be holding discernment sessions (bi-monthly) beginning Feb 28 after services on Zoom. If you can't join us contact Rosemary if you would like to talk one-on-one.

Prelude "Deep River"
Traditional spiritual, arr. by Mark Hayes.
<https://youtu.be/g5r5TQQqrqc>

Call to Worship

One: God summons us from the sun's rising to its setting.

Listen, for the Mighty One speaks to us.

All: Our God comes and does not keep silence.

Through fire and tempest, God is with us.

One: God gathers those faithful to the covenant.

Be quick to respond to God's invitation.

All: We seek a double share of the prophet's spirit.

We look for a vision to claim our souls.

One: Open your ears to the good news of the gospel.

Open your eyes to the glory of God.

All: We have come, eager to know the mystery of Jesus Christ.

We gather, seeking transformation and empowerment.

Hymn Immortal, Invisible
<https://youtu.be/dkoAfLpBBfU>

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867

JOANNA (ST. DENIO) 11.11.11.11.
 Traditional Welsh hymn melody

Gathering Prayer

Meet us here Glorious God for we are eager to know your presence and receive your blessing. You have acted in times past to save your people. Save us now. You have sent prophets to change the world. Change us now. You have granted light in Jesus Christ. Shine on us now. Let us see your glory. Lift us to the mountaintop in this time of worship. Open our eyes to see beyond our limited scope that we may view all people in your love. Lead us as your servants to participate in the transformation you envision for our world. Amen.

Gloria Patri

<https://youtu.be/OLz3R1hnUjs>

Scriptures

2 Kings 2:1-12a

¹ Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

⁴ Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰ He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!”

Mark 9:2-9 (NIV)

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) ⁷ Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” ⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Musical Reflection

“Steal Away to Heaven.”

Medley of traditional spirituals, arr. by Mark Hayes,
sung by Lynne Walker.

<https://youtu.be/VcmGjKvYulE>

Sermon

High and Holy Places

Many of you know I love to hike. It has been a pursuit of mine since I was in college. I have climbed many, many hills- from Mt Tom to the Rockies. And I do not intend to stop any time soon. Why, you may wonder? Because I love the challenge, because it is relaxing and energizing, and because there is always a reward at the top.

Today in Scripture we are led to a mountaintop that has the most awesome of all rewards; a view, not of the beautiful countryside, but of heavenly glory. Now we may wonder why on earth did Jesus make his disciples do the hard work of going up Mt Tabor? Couldn't his glory have been shown to them around the dinner table? Maybe; but then there is so much significance tied to mountains of Israel. Think of Abraham and Isaac on Mt Moriah, Moses and Israel at Mt Sinai, King David, the temple and Mt Zion, And Elijah on Mount Horeb, to name just a few. All those stories point to a holy, magnificent encounter with God. So is it any surprise that when Jesus saw that the time was right for his disciples to experience that presence and power and glory he led them up a high mountain?

Just before this event Jesus had asked his disciples a question that has been central to the gospel story. He asked them ‘who do people say I am, who do you say I am.’ And Peter boldly proclaimed “You are the Christ”. The answer was true, truer than Peter could have imagined. In fact, it was not anything that Peter imagined because he immediately fought with Jesus over the purpose of the Christ. He could see who Jesus was, but there was so much more that he did not see. So Jesus led them to the top of the mountain to gain a greater view, and a deeper vision.

There on the mountain Jesus was transformed and his full glory shone through. He was accompanied by Moses, the leader and lawgiver of the people of God, and Elijah, the great prophet who would restore all things. Peter, James and John witnessed in one shot all that the Scripture promised he would be, even if they did not fully understand it. This Messiah may not be what they had expected, but it was all that God had purposed. And Jesus would do all that God intended.

That was the testimony they heard and the directive they received. “This is my Son, my beloved, Listen to Him.” Listen to him when he says “I must go to Jerusalem, to the mountain of Calvary.” And listen when he says “if anyone would come after me, they must take up the cross and follow me.” No, it may not be the Christ we want, but it is the salvation we need.

Today we stand in Peter's shoes. We are disciples, followers of Jesus. We have asked the question “Who is this man?” And we think we have the answer to who this Jesus is. And we are comfortable with that. But there is yet more that we have not grasped. We are disciples, we follow Jesus. We pray, read the Scripture, live its lessons. We come to church, and we serve the world. But we still

need to be confronted with the Divine Mystery. We need to be awe struck by God's presence, here and now. And we need to hear God's word "this is my beloved Son, listen to him."

Today as we conclude Epiphany with a celebration of joy and light we also enter into the journey of the Lent. We face the challenge not only of worshipping our glorious Creator but more importantly to follow our great Redeemer. It was on the mountain top that the disciples saw the great glory of Christ, and then they followed him into the valley, on a road that led to the cross. That moment still stands. The Spirit of Christ leads us today to holy hills and humble valleys. The Spirit continues to reveal to us the majesty of God, speaks to us the words we need to hear and leads us in directions we may not anticipate. The question is, are we willing to follow wherever he may lead? Amen.

Hymn

Transform Us (tune Lauda Anima)

<https://youtu.be/YZT7TmQZHYw>

Transform Us



1. Trans - form us as you, trans - fig - ured, stood a - part on Ta - bor's height.
2. Trans - form us as you, trans - fig - ured, once stood with those ho - ly ones.
3. Trans - form us as you, trans - fig - ured, would not stay with - in a shrine.



Lead us up our sa - cred moun - tains, search us with re - veal - ing light.
We sur - round - ed by the wit - ness of those saints whose work is done,
Keep us from our great tempt - a - tion -- time and truth we quick - ly bind.



Lift us from where we have fall - en, full of ques - tions, filled with fright.
live in this world as your Bod - y, cho - sen daugh - ters, cho - sen sons.
Lead us down those dai - ly path - ways where our love is not con - fined.



Sylvia Dunstan, 1989

LAUDA ANIMA 8.7.8.7.8.7.
John Goss, 1869

Joys and Concerns

As you meet with God in prayer, please lift up the joys and concerns shared through the Trumpet Blast. God is eager to be your help and strength, to listen to you and meet your needs. Prayer is a gift we can always use. If you would like the church to pray for you please contact pastor Rosemary or Michele Lawler.

Prayers of the People

Amazing God, we praise and thank you for all the wonders you have revealed to us. We thank you for the glory revealed to us in Jesus Christ, and for the radiance of your Spirit that leads us in your way. And so, with faith and courage we come to you, seeking your wisdom, guidance and strength. We pray for your church and for this congregation. May your glory be revealed among us, our spirits be inspired, and our lives be transformed. May each of us experience the majesty of Christ and the power of his cross, so that we may faithfully follow him in service to the world. We pray as well for our world. Grant all our leaders your vision for this world, and strengthen them as they bring that vision to fulfillment. Grant also your faithful presence to all who are suffering this day. May the ill know your healing, the sorrowful your comfort and the needy your aid. We especially lift up...thank you for.... Empower us, your people, that we may reveal your goodness and glory through our words of grace and works of compassion among all our neighbors, near and far. We praise you and thank you, Glorious God, through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Choral Response

https://youtu.be/1AivVHv_mbc

Offering

God's glory is revealed among us, to strengthen our souls and empower us for service. Through our offerings we give expression to our faith; in opportunities for glorious worship and through works of humble service. Our generosity can make a genuine difference in the lives of others and in our lives as well. Let us offer our gifts with deep thanksgiving.

Use our gifts, mighty God, to bring light where there is gloom, hope where there is despair, peace where there is turmoil. May Jesus Christ be proclaimed and his kingdom be established in righteousness and justice for all peoples. We dedicate ourselves and our offering to these ends. Amen.

Doxology

<https://youtu.be/5I7PEGUPAXQ>

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision
<https://youtu.be/16PGuMVJZ6M>

Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought . . . by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tower,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.
 Music: Irish tune

SLANE
 10 10 9 10

Common Commission

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Benediction

Go now into the world

And may the God who said, “let light shine out of darkness,” shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6 adj.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Postlude

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,”
arr. Howard Kasschau.
<https://youtu.be/fCCmtsmaNno>