**+ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**An Open and affirming congregation of the**

**United Church of Christ, Saugus, Massachusetts**

**Service of Worship 10 a.m.**

**Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2018**

**\*Indicates for those who are able to, please stand.**

**Bold print indicates congregational response.**

**NCH = New Century Hymnal (black cover)**

**HOP = Spiral bound cover**

*Scripture reader is John Gilmore.*

*Greeters & Ushers are Barbara & Scott Davis.*

*Coffee Hour host is Linda Anderson.*

*Deacon is Barbara Davis.*

PRELUDE “Holy Ground” (Geron David) Lisa Merschen

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Martha Leahy

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE Cindy Turco

***Dear God, as we now bring fire to our Peace Candle, making it glow with light, may we also bring the fire of love and healing to this time of meditation and prayer. May these rays of light encircle us, keeping us safe from harm, blessing us and those we love with healing and peace. Amen.***

**“Surely the Presence” HOP 74**

***Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;***

***I can feel his mighty power and his grace.***

***I can hear the brush of angel’s wings,***

***I see glory on each face;***

***surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.***

CALL TO WORSHIP (“God, we’re here!”)

L: God lives in heaven, watching over all that God created.

**P: We can look up and see the glory of God in the shining sky.**L: God lives on earth, tending to our needs and those of the earth.
**P: We can see all around us the beauty of creation.**L: God lives inside of us, inspiring us to do good in the world.
**P: We can feel the power of God’s Holy Spirit within us.**L: God lives throughout time and space, beyond boundaries and limits.
**All: We welcome God’s presence, in all the places of our lives.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “Joy in the Morning” HOP 144**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (“God, we’re sorry”): **Holy God, we confess that, at the end of the week, we just want to stay here in your sanctuary, safe from all the troubles of the world. We don’t care to engage with the rest of our fellow citizens. Forgive us. Help us balance our need for solitude with your call to cooperation with other travelers on The Way. We wait for your assurance and blessing. Amen.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE: “Thy Word” HOP 92**

***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2x)***

**\***ASSURANCE OF PARDON (“God forgives us”), in unison: **God of Us All, we thank you for understanding why we act the way we do, and loving us anyway. With your help, we’ll try harder to listen for your encouragement and direction. Amen.**

\*GLORY TO GOD “Holy, Holy, Holy” NCH #277

***Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty! Early in the morning we praise your majesty./ Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty/ God in three persons/ blessed Trinity!***

SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:2-12 (SP714, LP1567)

(SP=Small print Bible; LP=Large print Bible)

MESSAGE: “A Glimpse of Heaven” Rev. Martha Leahy

**PRAYER INTRO: “Sanctuary” HOP 135**

***Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary/pure and holy,***

***tried and true./With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living***

***sanctuary for you.***

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE:** “**Take My Life & Let it Be” HOP 129** ***Take my life and let it be/Consecrated Lord, to thee./ Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love/ At the impulse of thy love.***

OFFERTORY INVITATION (“God, we give back”), in unison: **God gives us many opportunities to make this world a more loving and just place. We can help create that world by pooling our gifts and talents to keep our church alive. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY: “Sweet By and By” HOP 140**

\*DOXOLOGY: NCH #778 lyrics; NCH 780 tune

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God all creatures here below;***

***Praise God for all that love has done.***

***Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OUR GIFTS & PLEDGES (“God bless our gifts”), in unison: **Holy God, we come to your altar bringing the gifts we have worked hard for and that are needed for your ministries. We ask your blessing upon the gifts as well as the givers, so that both may grow in faith and numbers. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: “When We All Get to Heaven” HOP 143**

\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING (“God, we will try”), in unison:

**God of Heaven and Earth, we will try to act on earth as if heaven were already here. We will try to treat each other as Jesus would have us do. Please help us in our trying. Amen.**

BENEDICTION (“God, please bless us”):

L: God lives in heaven, watching over all that God created.

**P: We can look up and see the glory of God in the shining sky.**L: God lives on earth, tending to our needs and those of the earth.
**P: We can see all around us the beauty of creation.**L: God lives inside of us, inspiring us to do good in the world.
**P: We can feel the power of God’s Holy Spirit within us.**L: God lives throughout time and space, beyond boundaries and limits.
**All: We welcome God’s presence, in all the places of our lives.**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: “Strength for the Journey”**  (insert)

POSTLUDE: “How Great is Our God” (Chris Tomlin) Lisa Merschen



**“A Glimpse of Heaven”**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**February 11, 2018**



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### **The Transfiguration of Jesus**

Mark 9:2-9

**2**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.

**Blessing the Dust - *A Blessing for Ash Wednesday***

***By Jan Richardson, The Painted Prayerbook***

All those days Let us be marked
you felt like dust, not for false humility
like dirt, or for thinking
as if all you had to do we are less
was turn your face than we are
toward the wind
and be scattered but for claiming
to the four corners what God can do

or swept away within the dust,
by the smallest breath within the dirt,
as insubstantial— within the stuff

Did you not know of which the world
what the Holy One is made,
can do with dust?

This is the day and the stars that blaze
we freely say in our bones,
we are scorched. and the galaxies that spiral

This is the hour inside the smudge
we are marked we bear.
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.