Sunday, March 2, 2025 – 9:30 am Transfiguration Sunday

TODAY'S FOCUS: THE GLORY OF JESUS. It is almost time for Jesus to make his exodus from the world, yet he is still serving the people. Is that not astounding? Where else are we astounded by Jesus?

PRELUDE — Anneke Toomey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Lin Cheek

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OPENING HYMNUMH #185 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

- 1. When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!
- 2. The night becomes as day when from the heart we say: May Jesus Christ be praised! The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear: May Jesus Christ be praised!
- 3. Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: May Jesus Christ be praised! In heaven's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this: May Jesus Christ be praised!
- 4. Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this th'eternal song through all the ages long: May Jesus Christ be praised!

CALL TO WORSHIP — Bonnie Clark

One: At God's table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.

Many: Here, strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the upside-down realm of God is revealed.

One: At God's table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.

Many: Here, the powerless are heard, the outcast are showered with honor, and the insideout realm of God is revealed.

One: At God's table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.

All: Here, the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for justice. Here in our very midst the realm of God is revealed.

Adapted from "Call to Worship" by Rev. Leslie Penrose, UCC Pastor in Tulsa, OK. Used by permission.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

TFWS #2233 "Where Children Belong"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — Sharon Goldade

SCRIPTURE: Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a) — Bonnie Clark

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. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ When 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.

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

MESSAGE "How Much Longer?" Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN UMH #355 "Depth of Mercy" (vs 1, 2, 4, 5)

- 1. Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me? Can my God his wrath forbear, me, the chief of sinners, spare?
- 2. I have long withstood his grace, long provoked him to his face, Would not hearken to his calls, grieved him by a thousand falls.

- 4. There for me the Savior stands, shows his wounds and spreads his hands. God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps and loves me still.
- 5. Now incline me to repent, let me now my sins lament, Now my foul revolt deplore, weep, believe, and sin no more.

OFFERTORY — Scott Anderson

DOXOLOGY UMH #94

PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Bonnie Clark

All: Transforming God, bless this offering for the transformation of lives, to be life and hope and love for those who need it most. May the giving of our gifts this morning be an invitation to living a life radically transformed by your power, love, and grace. We pray this in the mighty love of Jesus. Amen.

COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you Many: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray: It is a right, a good, and a joyful thing ... we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: God of all people, you sent Jesus ... we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

One: As we approach your communion table ... and pray as Jesus taught us to pray saying, All: 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

In the United Methodist Church, all are welcome to share in Communion, and all means all. Please come forward when invited by the usher and eat the bread, then drink the cup. For the convenience of all, we use non-alcoholic grape juice and also provide gluten free wafers. When you return to your seat, please take time to pray for those on the prayer list in the bulletin. If you would prefer to receive communion in the pew, please let the usher know and the elements will be brought to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION — Bonnie Clark

ALL: Merciful God, Jesus was transfigured on the mountaintop to show us your power and glory. In the loving light of Christ, we know that we are made whole through your love and grace. We love you, we thank you, and we praise your holy name, now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMNTFWS #2173 "Shine, Jesus, Shine" **REFRAIN:** 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.

- 1. Lord, the light of your love is shining in the midst of the darkness shining; Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me. **REFRAIN**
- 2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence from the shadows into your radiance; By the blood I may enter your brightness, search me, try me, consume all my darkness. Shine on me, shine on me. **REFRAIN**
- 3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness; Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me. **REFRAIN**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE — Anneke Toomey

Prelude/Postlude—Anneke Accomp.—Anneke Offertory—Scott
Song Leader—Bonnie Clark Special Music — N/A Organ — Betsy
Liturgist — Bonnie Clark Children's Message— Sharon Goldade
Violin — Rae Ann Norell