

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Christ the Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Transfiguration Sunday

Honouring Black History Month

February 27, 2022

'Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have the courage to see it?'

(Marilynne Robinson, Gilead.)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE We Are Not Alone (*P. Choplin*) Janice Nolan, Soprano Soloist, and the AUC Chancel Choir Octet (Laurie Bentolila, Margaret Heney, Colleen Abbott, Laurie Graham, George Collins, Dave Summerfeldt, David Lever, Peter Zsebik)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

Acknowledgment of Territory/Candle of Remembrance-Every Child Matters

As we come into worship today, we acknowledge that we reside and worship on the traditional lands of the people of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation... and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages



CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Tim & Leta Dayfoot

God touches the world,
and the world changes.

God touches us,
and we are transformed.

In the brightness of day,
in the deep dark of night.

on mountain,
in valley.

Let us climb and descend together—
to embrace the light of Christ.

Let us worship!

HYMN We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding (*C.P.Daw/C.V.Taylor*) VU 104

We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place; where we wait
with hope and longing for some token of God's
grace. Here we pray for new assurance that our
faith is not in vain, searching like those first
disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks in upon our darkness;
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word; Moses
and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law
and Prophets meet. Christ with garments drenched in
brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline, we like Peter find it
tempting to remain and build a shrine. But true worship
gives us courage to proclaim what we profess, that our
daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

We bless and thank you for the gift of faith, Loving God. In some of us it is strong, like an ancient tree, rooted deeply and rising proudly. In others of us it is fragile, like a flower, tossed in the wind, bowed by storms. In each of us our faith is your gift, not our own achievement, not something about which we can boast. It is your gift, one that we have been given to share with others. We thank you for this mystery of faith in our lives, and for its power to transform the everyday. On mountain tops and in the valleys of our lives, you meet us there. God in Community—Holy in One, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God transforms our every day.
Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY The Transfiguration of Jesus Bible Story (*Kids on the Move*)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2 (We are bold in our hope.) NRSV

Pat Innes

¹²Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. ⁴Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth, we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

GIFT OF MUSIC MacDougall's Pride (*A. MacIsaac*)

Wesley Bells, violin and Margaret Heney, piano

GOSPEL Luke 9: 28-36 (Jesus is transfigured upon the mountain.) NRSV

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶When 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.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Transformation in the Everyday

HYMN When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides (*K. Wehlender*) MV 169

When hands reach out beyond divides and hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away and bells of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound, and bells of peace shall sound,
each chain of hate will fall away and bells of peace shall sound.

When fear no longer guides our steps and days of war are done,
God's dream for all shall live anew; our hearts will heal as one,
our hearts will heal, will heal as one, our hearts will heal as one,
God's dream for all shall live anew; our hearts will heal as one.

When race and creed blind us no more, a neighbour's face we'll see,
and we shall dance the whole world round, for love will set us free,
for love, yes love will set us free, for love will set us free,
and we shall dance the whole world round, for love will set us free.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

THE NEW CREED VU p. 918 (*The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt.*)

Ringers: Joanne Banfill, Nancy Birtch, Joyce Hagarty, Pat Innes, Lisa Kyriakides, Carol Lever,
Sue Linley, John Malarczyk, Mackenzie Malarczyk, and Laura Wells

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

O God, you spoke—a word, a yearning, a creation—
‘Let there be light’ In that light—your light—creation
dawned through Love.

**Within the deep and abiding light of your Love,
relationships evolved into ever greater complexity:
light upon light, love within love.**

Gazing upon the countless twinkling lights of starry nights,
Sarah and Abraham envisioned their descendants.

**Witnessing the awe-inspiring beauty of a rainbow’s light,
Noah perceived your promise of hope and of communion.**

Led by a fiery pillar blazing in the wilderness night,
Moses led a grumbling people into identity as a People of God.

**Following the glorious light of a persistent star, Wise Ones
discovered your vulnerability in a baby boy.**

Hiking to a mountain top for prayer and for retreat, three disciples
witnessed your revealed glory in Jesus; the Word made flesh,
a light of humble self-giving for all people. Fear, intrigue,
uncertainty and doubt overtook too many. Though Jesus brought
liberation to the oppressed as the Light of the World, we were
stopped by our fears,

choosing the familiar instead of the just.

But you, O God, continued to bring forth light, raising the
crucified one to life and to wholeness. Therefore, we join
with all creation to sing:

O Holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always. (MV 203)

Words of Institution...

Each time we break this bread and pour this cup, we, too,
seek to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.
Each time we break this bread and pour this cup, we, too, seek to
proclaim the reign of God and the mystery of faith.

***Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! (MV 204)***

God of light and of Love revealed in Jesus, bathe us in your Spirited
light which brings us to wholeness.

**Within that light may we know Christ in the breaking of bread,
that in word and in deed we may also become light and life.**

Into your loving heart, gracious God, we lift those among us,
In our community and in our world who yearn for wholeness
In their living, and for light in their loving...

(prayers for the community...)

We turn to you now as a mother, praying the words that Jesus taught
us to pray, saying, 'Our Father....'

***Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, Amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen! (MV 205)***

SHARING THE FEAST

*Communion in this time of pandemic will reflect our households as we
bring to our living spaces the things which speak of our lives...bread/wine,
bread/juice, pita, rice cracker or otherwise. In response to the invitations:
'Jesus Christ, bread of heaven' and, 'Jesus Christ, cup of salvation'...
take the elements of your choice, each in their turn, knowing you reside
in the embrace of a broad faith community, tied to one another in the Spirit
of God made known in Jesus. We are not alone.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving One, as our bodies take in the nourishment of your love expressed in Jesus, may we be transformed by it, filled, as we are, with gift and grace. Amen.

HYMN Bless Now, O God, the Journey (*S.Dunstan/B.Harwood*) VU 633

Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.

Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains
the day. We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, where faith is found.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

Jesus is transformed before his friends,
filled with the light of God.
We take courage, for all of life's uphill journeys;
God's light is ours.

And now, may the blessing of God, giver of every good and perfect gift;
the blessing of Christ, the Redeemer of the lost and broken;
the blessing of the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our lives,
be with each one of us and all whom we love and serve. Amen.

POSTLUDE Shadows (*Mychael Danna*) Margaret Heney



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast are on traditional Territories of Indigenous Peoples.



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Participating in Worship today...Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar, Margaret Heney, Rev. Tim & Leta Dayfoot, Pat Innes, Wesley Bells, Janice Nolan, Soprano Soloist, and the AUC Chancel Choir Octet: Laurie Bentolila, Margaret Heney, Colleen Abbott, Laurie Graham, George Collins, Dave Summerfeldt, David Lever, and Peter Zsebik. Ringers: Joanne Banfill, Nancy Birtch, Joyce Hagarty, Pat Innes, Lisa Kyriakides, Carol Lever, Sue Linley, John Malarczyk, Mackenzie Malarczyk, and Laura Wells

With thanks to... Noah Comar, videographer, and to Bob Kyriakides, video editor...and to all who are filming at home in order to participate in worship in some way! ☺

Images used in worship video...

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Bless Now, O God, the Journey – Illiya Vjestica – Unsplash

Kingsfold Sanctus, Kingsfold Memorial Acclamation, and Kingsfold Great Amen

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MacDougall's Pride (A. MacIsaac). Wesley Bells and Margaret Heney.

Shadows (Mychael Danna). Margaret Heney.

The Transfiguration of Jesus Bible Story. Kids on the Move. September 22, 2019.