

First United Church

February 19, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Transfiguration Sunday & Communion

Black History Month



**Purpose: Building Relationships,
Living God's Transforming Love.**

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- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Handbell Prelude: Stand Up and Bless the Lord ST. MICHAEL, Arr. Bill Ingram

Listening as we Gather

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

One: We begin our service with gratitude and respect as we remember together that this land, this planet is sacred. We are on holy ground.

All: Earth is our only home, and we are related to it as part of the web of life.

One: We lament that we have not honoured our deep relationship with the earth. The climate crisis is one result of our overconsumption and wastefulness. We commit to learning and practicing better care for the earth.

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and their spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Chonnoton, and Anishinaabe and acknowledge their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. We lament that we have not honoured their ways, nor their spirituality and we all live with the consequences.

All: We seek to live into right relationship with all Indigenous people with whom we share the land. We commit to listening to and respecting their wisdom.

One: We aspire to create a safer space for everyone. We welcome you and the gifts you bring a part of your sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, race, cultural background or abilities.

Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship

- **Introit** A Light is Gleaming - refrain only

VU 82

Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

- **Call to Worship**

One: The glory of God transfigures the everyday!

All: The light of God transfigures familiar faces!

One: At the heights of worship, may God's presence shine through the commonplace.

All: At the depths of our pain and struggle, may God's presence give us courage and peace. May God's light shining in the face of Christ, illumine all our days!

- **Opening Hymn** We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding VU 104

Prayer of Approach

Listening For God's Word

Ministry of Music: I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger
Folk Tune, arr. Tammy Waldrop
Handbell choir

Readings from Our Tradition

Exodus 24: 12-18 (Reader: Mary Joan Brooker)

One: Herein is wisdom.
All: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 17: 1-9

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Ministry of Music: Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies Keith Bissell
Gallery choir

Sermon: Holy Encounters

Ministry of Music: All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
HOLY MANNA, arr. C. Mocklebust
Handbell choir

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

- **Communion Hymn:** You Are My Body

MV 200

Invitation to the Tables

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God is with us.

All: God is within us.

One: Open your hearts.

All: Our hearts are open to the mystery of this day.

One: Let the heavens rejoice.

All: Let the earth be glad.

One: Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of life, Source of love. At your word creation dawns. Under your rainbow the floods recede. With a burning bush you hallow the earth. By a pillar of fire, you guide your people. We praise you that you do not abandon us. You place a child in Mary's womb and a star in the eastern sky. You send Jesus to be a light to the nations. He brings healing to the sick, hope to the despairing and justice to the oppressed. And yet he was rejected, betrayed, and crucified. But you, O God, bring forth light raising him from the grave, the first born of your new creation. Therefore, we join with all creation, and all who dwell in light inaccessible, to sing:

All: O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.

MV 203

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.

One: On the last night he spent with his friends, and before he was betrayed, Jesus sat at table with them. He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to those around him saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, in its breaking you shall be made whole. Whenever you do this, remember me." After supper he took a cup of wine and gave thanks and gave it to them saying, "Drink this, all of you, this is the new covenant in my blood. Each time you do this, remember me."

All: And so, we remember, claiming our common heritage as we proclaim the mystery of faith singing:

Sing Christ has died and Christ has risen, Christ will come again. MV 204
Sing Christ has died and Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

One: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts. Enliven this bread, awaken this body, pour us out for each other. Transfigure our minds and hearts, ignite your church, nourish the life of the earth. Make us, while many, united, make us, though broken, whole, make us, despite death, alive!

The Lord's Prayer

All: Amen, amen, O Holy One! MV 205
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Sharing at the Table

Music during Communion: All Who Hunger VU 460

Prayer after Communion

All: We give you thanks Light of Light that you have refreshed us at your table. As we go from this banquet of love send us out into the world that your Light might shine through us. We ask it in the name of the One who was and is your ever shining One. Amen

• **Sending Hymn** Set forth By God's Blessing VU 481

Sending Forth and Benediction

• **Benediction Response:** Threefold Amen VU 967

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: Rejoice in the Lord Always Jeff Enns