**ST. JOHN’S and ST. PAUL’S UCC**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**March 2, 2025**

RINGING OF THE BELL

 THE PRELUDE  Helen and Joan piano duet “You Raise Me Up”

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (UCC Worship Ways)

ONE: The call of the Holy One has brought us together.

**ALL: We have been called to pray and to praise**.

ONE: We are called to worship and to holy wonder.

**ALL: May the light of Love burn brightly in us.**

ONE: May it transfigure and transform our hearts and minds.

**ALL: May it become a beacon of hope for others.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION(UCC Worship Ways)

**God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal. Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for Your alive Word of Love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world. Amen.**

SONG #182 – We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding

 THE READING OF SCRIPTURE: St. John’s: Diane Weiland St. Paul’s: Peggy Isaacson

Psalm 99 Praise to God for His Holiness (NRSVUE)

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earthquake! The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool.

Holy is he! Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees and the statutes that he gave them. O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.

Luke 9:28-43a The Transfiguration and Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon (NRSVUE)

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. 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. 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. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” 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.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. 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. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” 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. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

THE MESSAGE – Glory and Valley

SONG (on monitors) [Transfiguration](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuN3Yi_NEFk) - Hillsong

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Joys and Concerns*)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (St. John’s: *debts/debtors;* St. Paul’s: sins/sin against us)

**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 (*debts*/sins), as we forgive (*our debtors*/those who sin 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 TO GENEROSITY (UCC Worship Ways)

 **On the Mount of Transfiguration, the law of love and the prophecy of holy peace joined each other in Jesus as he prayed. God’s generous love bore a radiant flash, kissing earth with heavenly light. So, the heart of God was revealed in Jesus, and a call was extended. It was the call to listen to Jesus and love generously like him. So we are invited to taste heavenly joy as we generously share the gifts we have received from the One who has born us into life. In this spirit, may we bring our gifts to the one who transfigures everything with love**.

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD #785 (*While the offering is brought forward*)

 **We give you but your own, what-e’er the gift may be;**

 **All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER (UCC Worship Ways)

 **O Spirit of Life, shine on us again and again that we may become the blessing you intend. Keep awakening us to Your holy mystery and Your sacred call. Bless these gifts we bring so that Your energy of love may be shared with others and offer the light of a new beginning. By this, and more than we can name, continue to transfigure us and the world. Amen.**

SONG #293 – There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*THE BENEDICTION (UCC Worship Ways)

 ONE: May the Holy radiance of transfiguration continually light the wick of your life. May it be a light that bears joy and hope and love. May the voice of Jesus enter not only your ears but also your heart. And may that voice shape your voice for the good of the world.

 **ALL: Blessings on you all! Amen and Amen!**

\*THE POSTLUDE