

**WE GATHER**  
**“LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY”**

**TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY: FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Introduction**

**Introit:**

**Territorial Acknowledgment**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**WE ENTER INTO GOD’S PRESENCE**

*All of the prayers this week, with the exception of the Prayer Candle and Pastoral Prayer, are written by Mary Scifres and are used with copyright permission. They are found in the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021, Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday.*

**\*Call to Worship** (Elizabeth Henderson)

The light of God is shining...

**shining around and within.**

The voice of God is calling...

**calling not just from ancient texts,  
but from here and now.**

The love of God is with us...

**flowing around and within us.**

**Opening Prayer:** (Elizabeth Henderson)

Stay with us, Creator God.

Live in us, Christ Jesus.

Abide in us, Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** “When Morning Gilds the Skies” VU#339

**Prayer for Yearning:** (Rev. Roni)

Shine upon us with your grace,  
that we might see what frightens us  
and face what threatens us.

Flow through us with your mercy,  
that we might sense your presence,  
even when we have run away,  
and that we may know your love,  
even when we may feel unlovable.

Abide in us with your love,  
for your love claims us and makes us whole. **Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:** (Rev. Roni)

Even in the darkest of times, the light of God is shining.  
The light of Christ’s love and mercy are shining now,  
brightening our lives with mercy and grace.

**THE WORD**

One: Your Word is a lamp to our feet;

*All: And a light on our path.*

*Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love. Amen.*

**Psalm 50: 1-6** (Robert Whitford)

The mighty one, God the LORD,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.

Our God comes and does not keep silence,  
before the Holy One is a devouring fire,  
and a mighty tempest all around.

God calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

‘Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!’

The heavens declare the righteousness of the Holy One,  
for God himself is judge.

May it be so!

**Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 2: 1-12** (Van Meer family member)  
**Elijah Ascends to Heaven**

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.’ But Elisha said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?’ And he said, ‘Yes, I know; keep silent.’

Elijah said to him, ‘Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.’ But he said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live,

I will not leave you.’ So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?’ And he answered, ‘Yes, I know; be silent.’

Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.’ But he said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.’ Elisha said, ‘Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.’ He responded, ‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.’ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, ‘Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’ But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

**One:** Listen to what the Spirit is saying through the Prophets.

*All: Come and pray in us Holy Spirit.*

**Gospel Reading: Mark 9: 2-9** (Hailey Macleod)

### **The Transfiguration of Jesus**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

### **The Coming of Elijah**

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

**One:** This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

*ALL: Glory to you O Christ.*

**Prayer of Invocation:** “Spirit of Life, Come unto me” VU#381

**Reflection:** “Light for the Journey”

**Hymn of Ascription:** “A Light Is Gleaming” VU#82 vs. 1,2,3  
(piano solo)

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Announcements:**

**Invitation to offer of ourselves:**

**Offertory Blessing:**

**God of light and love,  
shine through the gifts we bring before you now.  
Speak through our hearts and our actions.  
Bless our gifts, our offerings, and our very lives,  
that we may bless others with your presence. Amen.**

**The Memory Candle:** (Elizabeth Henderson)

**Prayers of the People:**

### **SENT TO SHOW CHRIST’S LOVE**

**Hymn:** “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding” VU#104

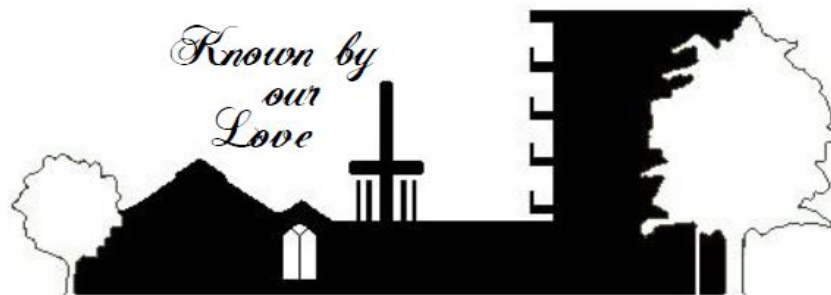
**Benediction:**

May the brightness of God light our way.  
May the brightness of Christ shine within us.  
May the brightness of God’s Spirit flow through us.  
Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you,  
This day and always. **Amen.**

**Go now in peace:**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steady, strong and true.  
Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

**Postlude**



## **Transfiguration Sunday February 14, 2021**

“The final Sunday following Epiphany, and before Lent, is Transfiguration Sunday. All three of the synoptic gospels tell a story of Peter, James, and John accompanying Jesus to the top of a holy mountain. There, before their eyes, Jesus is transfigured or transformed into a dazzling brightness”.

*United Church of Canada*



*Emmanuel United Church shall be a caring, welcoming faith community, nurturing spiritual life and sharing God's love and grace as experienced in Jesus Christ.*

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\* While Rev. Roni is away, if you have any pastoral care issues, please contact Nancy Lourie at 705-476-0305 or Bud McMartin at 705-474-8725.  
\* Rev. Kathy McCallum, will be providing emergency pastoral care.