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Minister: *Rev. Susan Reed*  
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*Our Mission...*

*to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.*

*We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.*

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Transfiguration Sunday

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*\*The asterisk invites all to stand, if they are able. **Bold** print indicates a congregational response.*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE *(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)*

*~Joanne Diplock*

WELCOME

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

INTRODUCTION to the SERVICE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the LAND

*We acknowledge that we meet on Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants, and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.*

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE

*(Written by Fern Gibbard; from Gathering A/C/E 2020-2021.)*

*The light of Christ shines on us and in us.*

*The light of Christ leads us.*

*The light of Christ transforms us.*

**We light this candle in the certainty  
that Christ's presence is here with us today.**

LIGHTING of the PEACE CANDLE

*As we light this candle, we pray for peace:*

**peace in our hearts,**

**peace in our homes,**

**peace in our world.**

*As we remember Jesus, the Prince of Peace,*

**O God, we pray for peace. Amen.**

SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

## CALL to WORSHIP

(Written by Taylor Croissant; from *Gathering A/C/E 2021-2022*.)

*We come from busy lives  
to this place of sanctuary and peace,  
to pray and be renewed for the week ahead.*

**We come to the foot of God's holy mountain.**

*The totality of God's glory is obscured,  
but in God's presence our lives are illuminated,  
and we receive instruction on how we should live.  
Here we seek connection, even if for just a moment,  
to the divine source of our life and all that is in our universe.*

**It is good for us to be here.**

*Let us make in our hearts a dwelling place for Christ.  
Come, let us worship God who is most high.*

## \*OPENING HYMN: VU #313 – "God, Whose Almighty Word"

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(Marriott/Giardini)  
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 God, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight,  
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.**
- 2 Jesus, who came to bring  
on your redeeming wing, healing and sight,  
health to the troubled mind, sight to the Spirit-blind,  
O now to humankind let there be light.**
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,  
lifegiving, holy dove, speed forth your flight;  
move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place let there be light.**
- 4 Blessed and holy three,  
glorious trinity, wisdom, love, might,  
boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide, let there be light.**

## OPENING PRAYER (inspired by Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36, 2 Peter 1:16-18)

*(Adapted from Stephen Fearing; found on the *re:Worship* blog online.)*

**Reveal your presence to us this day,  
O God of light, love, and glory.  
As you did to your servants at the foot of the mountain,  
send your Spirit to show us your story.  
May the brilliance of your face illuminate this place  
as we dare to proclaim your Word,  
and may we, your people, be never unable**

to tell all of that we have seen and heard.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## CONVERSATION TIME

### LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN: VU #371 – **"Open my Eyes, That I May See"**

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(Scott)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**
- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**
- 3 Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Scripture Reader: *Richard Miller*

#### **2 Kings 2: 1-12**

*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.

### **Mark 9: 2-9**

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 any more, but only Jesus.

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.

### Words of Response:

*Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.*

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### CALL to PRAYER

(Written by William Loader; found on the *re:Worship* blog online.)

*Let's go up the mountain.*

**Let's go up to the place where the land meets the sky**

**where the earth touches the heavens,**

**to the place of meeting,**

**to the place of mists,**

**to the place of voices and conversations,**

**to the place of listening.**

TRANSFIGURATION PRAYER (Written by William Loader; found on the *re:Worship* blog online.)

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

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~Joanne Diplock

SERMON: "A Mountaintop Experience"

~Rev. Susan Reed

## RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #104 – "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 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.**
- 2 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.**
- 3 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.**

## THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music as the offerings are collected

~Joanne Diplock

\*Offering Verse: #182 MV – "Grateful" Sung 2X  
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(Tomaszek/Hart)  
~Joanne Diplock

**Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,**

**joyful in your Spirit flowing  
over all, O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.**

**\*Offertory Prayer** (Written by Jeff Crittenden and Deborah Walker; from *Worship for All Seasons II: Year C.*)

**As we look to the mountaintop  
and catch a glimpse of the Transfigured One,  
we pray that our lives and offerings may also be transfigured,  
to glorify and honour the ministry and mission of your church.  
May we come down from the mountaintop, as did the disciples,  
ready to serve and love others in your name. Amen.**

## PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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,  
the power and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

**\*CLOSING HYMN: VU #413 – "O Splendour of God's Glory Bright"**

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*~Joanne Diplock*

- 1 O splendour of God's glory bright,  
from light eternal bringing light;  
O light of life, light's living spring,  
true day, all days illumining:**
- 2 come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,  
pour down your radiance from above,  
and to our inward hearts convey  
the Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.**
- 3 O joyful be the passing day  
with thoughts as clear as morning's ray,**

**with faith like noontide shining bright,  
our souls unshadowed by the night.**

**4 O Christ, with each returning morn  
your image to our hearts is born;  
O may we ever see anew  
our Saviour and our God in you!**

**\*COMMISSIONING**

(Written by Anna Atkinson; from *Gathering A/C/E 2021-2022.*)

*Friends, next week sees the beginning of the season of Lent,  
a season that reminds us of the power and the joy of the Way of Jesus.  
It reminds us, too, of the courage we need for the journey.*

**As we move forward from this Transfiguration Sunday  
into the season of Lent,**

**let us remember God's mission for the church in the world,  
and remember also that we are that church.**

**And as we reach out with Jesus,**

**let us be bold in our hope,**

**and confident in the knowledge that our God,  
who is Creator, Christ, and Spirit,**

**is with us in every moment!**

**\*BLESSING**

(Written by David Sparks; from *Worship for All Seasons II.*)

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

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(Price/Besig)

~Joanne Diplock

**May the Lord go with you,**

**let him take your hand.**

**Keep His love within you,**

**until we meet again. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

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~Joanne Diplock