

First Congregational United Church of Christ

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit and with the help of God,
we open our doors and hearts to all, in service and love as modeled by Jesus Christ.*



*Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Transfiguration of the Lord*

*The Lord's Day
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Transfiguration of the Lord
Nine o'clock in the Morning*

The Worship of God

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by God's holiness; the nourishment of the mind with God's truth; the purifying of the imagination by God's beauty; the opening of the heart to God's love; the surrender of the will to God's purpose—all of this gathered up in adoration.

~William Temple

The Prologue

Transfiguration of Our Lord is the climatic Sunday ending the season after the Epiphany, the first segment of Ordinary Time! This high and holy festival day is a day steeped in symbolism and metaphor, accentuating the image of Christ's coming into the world to all persons as the essence of light, the *light of the world!* There is mountaintop and there is valley and there is everything in between! The Gospel is an allegorical narrative reflective of the places where we live our lives, the places in which we live and move and have our being! In worship today we explore the sacred images expressed by the theologian, Rudolph Otto, who described the mysterious transcendence of the Holy as the, "mysterium tremendum et fascinans!" Indeed, God is *Divinum Mysterium—Divine Mystery!* To say any more about the awe and wonder of God is to say too much, for God is the essence of Being!

Gathering Music

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

And also with you.

The Music for Contemplation

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Gathering

Gather on this mountaintop of prayer and praise to worship the One who is just and righteous in all the earth!

Holy is the Lord our God, the One whose name is great and awesome in all the earth, the One whose justice and equity extends to all people!

Extol the Lord in this sacred setting! Come before the One whose Spirit is freedom and transformation! Glorify the One who transfigures one and all!

It is good for us to be here! With a bold faith we gather to worship the Holy One, longing to be transfigured, transformed in this sacred setting!

Let us worship God!

The Choral Introit

Transform Us

Sylvia Dunstan; Traditional French Melody

Chancel Choir

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

Transfiguring God, we have gathered to extol the Lord our God, to praise the name of One whose name is great and mighty, awesome in all the earth; remove the veils of our sin this day, transforming God, that we might be transfigured by your holiness, transformed in your presence, freed to serve you with hope and much boldness in all the earth; all this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

*The Opening Hymn, No. 25 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

*The Litany of Praise

The Holy One rules over all the earth, a great God exalted over all people!

Great and awesome is the name of God! Holy is the Lord God of Israel!

We long to extol the Lord our God, worshiping at the feet of the Holy One!

It is the holy One who loves us unconditionally, establishing equity among all people, executing justice and righteousness in all the earth!

Together we ascend this holy mountain of worship, longing for a glimpse of the glory of God, the presence of God in the sight of all people!

God hears our cries and answers, speaking a word of forgiveness for all people, transfiguring, transforming us in love! Praise the Lord!

*The Gloria

GREATOREX

*Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Comforter!
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end! Amen! Amen!*

The Call to Confession¹

Day after day we are surrounded by the majesty of God, the "mysterium tremendum et fascinans," divine mystery, even incarnate, yet our eyes fail to see and our thoughts are unable to comprehend the wonders of creation or the gift of transcendence. God calls us to be eyewitnesses of good news, to believe that we have eyes to see and to trust in the One beyond our knowing! In the silence and stillness of these moments, let us confess before the Holy.

The Silent Confession

The Corporate Confession²

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of dazzling splendor, we confess that we have lived in a cloud, hiding from your glory, and pretending not to notice the wonders of your majesty! The mystery of life eludes us because we tend to take for granted what seems commonplace while refusing to deal with matters beyond our understanding. We have tried to compartmentalize our religion, separating our faith and spirituality from the rest of life. On many occasions, we have not thought to serve you in everyday encounters. Shake our complacency, we pray, and awaken us to new life in all its fullness! Transfigure us this day, transforming us into the human creation you would have us to be, changing us in the twinkling of your eye!

The Assurance of Pardon³

Beloved faith community, hear the good news of Transfiguration! Happy are all who take refuge in God! We are accepted as God's own children! The Spirit of the Holy One comes to us as a gift, interpreting the truth we perceive in the scriptures! Do not be afraid of the vision God sets before us! A new day is dawning for all creation as we become aware that God is with us, within us, transfiguring us, transforming us day by day!

Thanks be to God!

The Response (*Chalice Praise*) No. 88 *Hide Me in Your Holiness* Steve Ragsdale

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible EXODUS 24:12-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there! I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction!" So, Moses set out with his assistant Joshua. Moses went up onto the mountain of God! To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you! Look, Aaron and Hur are with you! Whoever has a dispute

may go to them!” Then Moses went up on the mountain and the cloud covered the mountain! The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai and the cloud covered it for six days! On the seventh day God called to Moses out of the cloud! Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites! Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain! Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights!

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

Thanks be to God!

The Response, PSALM 99

LEONI

*God reigns, enthroned on high! Let all the earth proclaim
with trembling lips the awesome might of God’s great name!*

The Holy One, whose rule is marked with equity!

Whose righteousness to us is bound all time to be!

Unto the priests of old who called upon God’s name,

The law was spoken from the clouds and wrought in flame!

To God’s commands give heed! In faith, endure always!

Let gracious love forever ring with songs of praise!

The Witness from the Gospels

MATTHEW 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves! And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light! Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him! Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here! If you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved! With him I am well pleased! Listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear! But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid!” And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone! As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead!”

The Gospel for today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Good to Be Here!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Anthem

I Surrender, Lord

Cindy Ovokaitys and Mark Austin

Chancel Choir

The Concerns of the Church

The Pastoral Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever!
Amen.**

The Receiving of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Christ all creatures here below!
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore!
Praise triune God whom we adore!*

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Closing Hymn, No. 365 *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters* BEACH SPRING

*The Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

*The Procession of the Light

*The Benediction and Blessing

To our guests! At your choosing, we invite you to join us in a long-standing tradition at First Congregational United Church of Christ as we form a circle as one, joining hands and singing together our Fellowship Song.

*The Fellowship Song

Let There Be Peace on Earth

WORLD PEACE

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
With every step I take, let this be my joyous creed.
To take each moment and live each moment in peace, eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

The Music for Reflection

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

Lector: Ursula Charaf

Ushers: Susan Krivichi and Deb Stolze

The color for the Sundays after the Epiphany is Green, symbolizing the growth and development of the Church. Various symbols of the Trinity, such as the Trefoil and Triangle designs, remind us of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the Triune nature of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Parent, Child, Advocate and Comforter; Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Ordinary Time refers to that part of the Church Year that does not fall within one of the major seasons and does not observe any specific aspect of the Mystery of Christ. It consists of thirty-four Sundays in the liturgical year and emphasizes personal faith development and nurture, and the growth and enhancement of the Church and the churches. Ordinary Time begins with Baptism of the Lord and encompasses the Sundays after Epiphany including Transfiguration and the Sundays after Pentecost including Reign of Christ. An interesting bit of liturgical trivia is that Baptism of the Lord is counted but is not named as the first Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The flowers adorning the Chancel for today's worship are given by Marilyn Preisler.

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CHURCH STAFF

Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor

Debbie Brown, Church Administrator

Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education

Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music

Linda Brainard, Pianist

Norma Yaeger, Pianist

Christine Clough, Cleaning Service

CHURCH COUNCIL

President, Donna Adams

Vice President, Mark Johannsen

Trisha Moore

Cathy Palmer

Luke Aschbrenner

Deb Stolze

Steve Burrill

Clerk, Norma Yaeger

Pastor Parish Relations, Tobi Johannsen

Women's Fellowship, Sharon Breit

Sanctuary Arts Group, Patti Roberts

Facilities, Donna Adams

Finance, Paula Hendrickson

Gifts and Endowments, Bill Marshall

Safety and Security, Carlton Schroeder

Scholarship, Ursula Charaf



First Congregational United Church of Christ

105 North First Street ~ PO Box 1385 ~ Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

Website: eagleriverucc.org Church Office: 715-802-8501 E-mail: office@eagleriverucc.org

Timothy W. Shirley: pastortim@eagleriverucc.org timwshirley@gmail.com



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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