

**Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ**  
**Transfiguration**  
**February 15, 2026**

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\*\*\*\* *Some rise to their feet, some rise in their hearts—please rise as you are able.*

**GATHERING BELL**

*At the sound of the bell, please silence yourselves and prepare for worship.*

**PRELUDE**

*Chorale from Cantata 147, J.S. Bach*

Ellen Bradley

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Paul Ashby

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

**Whoever you are...and wherever you are on  
life's journey... you are welcome here!**

**OPENING REFLECTION**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kim Sutherland

Let us come to the mountaintop, to reflect on the wonders of creation.

**Sometimes the Creator brings the mountaintop to us with a vision of the snow-covered  
Grand Mesa.**

The Creator speaks through sights, sounds and visions of transcendent grace and wonder.

**Sometimes the Creator speaks through just a gentle breeze of silence or a grace-filled  
thought of caring compassion.**

Be open and aware of the voice of God and goodness in the whispers of nature and the words of friends.

**Help us to be alert to the mountains that are all around us that reflect a Presence that is  
greater than any words.**

\*\*\*\*HYMN Song Folder 1, vs. 1,2,4

*Gather Us In*

All

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away.  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken. Gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now and we shall awaken. We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty. Gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly. Give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away,  
But here in this place the new light is shining. Now is the kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever. Gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bones.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Paul

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Respond to each shared prayer request with "Peace, Shalom, Salaam."

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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  
yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Kim

OFFERTORY

*Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord*, Baloche/Schrader

Choir

\*\*\*\*DOXOLOGY (tune: *Tallis Canon*)

**Praise God whose mercies never cease;  
whose justice raises up the least;  
invites all creatures to the feast---  
God's mercy is our hope and peace!**

\*\*\*\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Kim

**In awe and wonder for the creation of life and this vast cosmos, we offer our thanks and gifts. Let us celebrate that Your love is with us on the mountaintops of transcendent joy, and the valleys of days when we drag the weight of life. Grant us the wisdom to learn from both the mountains and valleys of our life. Amen**

\*\*\*\*HYMN NCH 182

*We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

All

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.

Light breaks through our clouds and shadows,  
splendor 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.

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.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 34:29-35, Matthew 17:1-8

Kim

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face, but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out, and when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining, and Moses would put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with him.

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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.

MESSAGE *“Let’s Climb a Mountain with Jesus”* Paul

\*\*\*\*HYMN NCH 556 *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* All

God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,  
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space;  
we, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;  
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;  
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;  
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,  
facing us with life’s destruction or our most triumphant hour.

As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,  
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.  
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor, well begun;  
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

\*\*\*\*BENEDICTION Paul

\*\*\*\* SUNG BENEDICTION *World Peace Prayer* All

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,  
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
Let peace fill our universe!

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE

RECESSIONAL *The Heavens are Telling*, Beethoven Ellen

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#### **Today’s Worship Leaders**

preacher  
liturgist  
musician

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby  
Kim Sutherland  
Ellen Bradley