

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Transfiguration Sunday
February 11, 2024

*** 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

Sometimes a Light Surprises, arr. Larry Shackley

Martha Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Paul Ashby

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

OPENING REFLECTION

Paul

CALL TO WORSHIP

Debra Weller

People seek enlightenment through drugs, extreme sports, introspection and life risking activities.

Let us know the enlightenment that is a simple compassion for ourself and others.

Saints and mystics will give everything to glimpse the face of God.

Yet when our heart is open, we easily see the face of goodness and God-ness all around us.

As Jesus was transfigured by God's light of love may we find the inner blessing that adds light to our face.

Let the light of the holy be reflected in our hearts and actions.

****HYMN**

Journey of Faith (see insert)

All

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

Debra

OFFERTORY

Lord of the Broken, James/Kaye/Lopez

Laura Bradley, Cellist, and Choir

****DOXOLOGY, NCH #567, vs. 5** *Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit*

**Gracious God, we bring before you gifts of human life alone,
truth that throbs through song and story, visions caught in paint and stone;
these, O God, we gladly offer, gifts to praise the Giver's name.**

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Debra

**God of light, let us catch a glimpse of Your radiance. Our faces sometimes reflect anger,
pain, sadness or grief. Our faces also know the vivid illumination of faith, hope, joy,
hospitality and love. Let Your light shine in our being and our giving. Amen.**

**HYMN NCH 45, vs. 1-2

Be Now My Vision

All

Be now my Vision, O God of my heart;
Nothing surpasses the love you impart--
You my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise
You mine Inheritance, now and always
You and you only are first in my heart,
Great God, my Treasure, may we never part.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 80:1-2, Psalm 4:6, Psalm 27:8, Psalm 31:16

Debra

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"

"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

MESSAGE

"Daring to Look at the Face of God"

Paul

**HYMN NCH 32

God of The Sparrow, God of the Whale

All

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars,
How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?

God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast,
How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?

God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave,
How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?

God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal,
How does the creature say Care? How does the creature say Life?

God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook,
How does the creature say Love? How does the creature say Peace?

God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart,
How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home.

**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

Lobe den Herren, arr. John Carter

Martha

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Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musicians

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
Debra Weller
Laura Bradley, Martha Jones