

**IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

February 14, 2021

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Transfiguration Sunday

**PRELUDE**

“This Is the Feast of Victory”

Joyce Harris

By Richard Hillert

**WELCOME**

**LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

LEADER: Gathering in this sacred place  
we anticipate new wonders each week.

**PEOPLE: Wherever two or three are gathered to worship,  
a holy spirit is present.**

LEADER: Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love  
and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed,  
even this day, even in this place.

**PEOPLE: We will want to linger and camp in this sanctuary  
but when we leave today may our hearts be open  
to all the wonders of God’s beautiful world.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors  
you reveal to us the light of your love.  
Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory  
of the divine presence.  
With each encounter, we are changed and transformed.  
Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit.  
Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.  
May we walk among our siblings and friends as a blessing,  
bearing light into dark places, hope to displace despair,  
and love that casts out hate.  
Our world is hurting  
and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely.  
Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying,  
... “listen to my Child, the Beloved!” Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #371UMH

“I Stand Amazed in the Presence”

*I stand amazed in the presence  
of Jesus the Nazarene,  
And wonder how he could love me,  
a sinner, condemned, unclean*

*Refrain*

*How marvelous! How wonderful!  
And my song shall ever be:  
How marvelous! How wonderful  
Is my Savior's love for me.*

*For me it was in the garden  
He prayed: “Not my will, but thine”  
He had no tears for his own grief,  
But sweat-drops of blood for mine.*

*Refrain*

*How marvelous! How wonderful!  
And my song shall ever be:  
How marvelous! How wonderful  
Is my Savior's love for me.*

**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**

**HYMN #112 CH**

“Holy Ground”

*We are standing on holy ground,  
And I know that there are angels all around;  
Let us praise Jesus now,  
We are standing in his presence  
On holy ground.*

*We are standing on holy ground,  
And I know that there are angels all around;  
Let us praise Jesus now,  
We are standing in his presence  
On holy ground.*

**SCRIPTURE**

Mark 9: 2 – 9

Liturgist: Terry Jones

<sup>2</sup> 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, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup> 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.

**SERMON**

"The Blessing of the Transfiguration Experience"

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**Invitation to Generosity**

Peter offered to build a tabernacle on the mountain with Jesus.  
But God does not dwell in houses made with human hands.  
Let us offer ourselves in service to those God loves.  
Let us offer our sacrifices to build community,  
bring peace, and be a double blessing  
to those in need throughout the world. Amen

**Offertory Hymn**

"This Little Light of Mine"  
A Traditional African American Spiritual

This little light of mine  
I'm going to let it shine  
Oh, this little light of mine  
I'm going to let it shine  
This little light of mine  
I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

## Prayer of Dedication

With these gifts, we proclaim not ourselves but Jesus  
and commit ourselves to follow a way that leads to love and life.  
May our sacrifice be witness to our love for each other  
and the God who loves us all. Amen

## HYMN #610

“My Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

*My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,  
Who is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored,  
And has loosed the fateful lightning of the terrible swift sword;  
God's truth is marching on.*

### **Refrain**

*Glory, glory hallelujah!  
Glory, glory hallelujah!  
Glory, glory hallelujah!  
God's truth is marching on.*

*In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
With the glory in whose bosom that transfigured you and me;  
As Christ died to make us holy, let us die to make all free,  
While God is marching on.*

**Refrain** (see above)

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

“Shine, Jesus Shine”  
by Graham Kendrick

Joyce Harris

## Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today's Service

<i>Joyce Harris</i>	<i>Organist</i>
<i>Terry Jones</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>
<i>Dr. Oliver Lawrence</i>	<i>Videographer</i>
<i>Rev. Merlyn Lawrence</i>	<i>Senior Pastor</i>

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