

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Be Thou My Vision

Traditional Melody
Arranged by Tedd Smith & Don Hustad

CALL TO WORSHIP

You are with us, God of sunrises:

you awaken us with each bright new day, overflowing with promise.

You are with us, Inviting God:

calling us to respond to all the chances to share the spirit of grace and hope.

You are with us, Glory of God:

gathering us into the presence of your peace, listening to the deep sighs of our hearts.

HYMN

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

GENEVA

Swiftly pass the clouds of glory, heaven's voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish; Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent, turning from the summit's rise
Downward toward the shadowed valley where their Lord has fixed his eyes.

Glimpsed and gone the revelation, they shall gain and keep its truth,
Not by building on the mountain any shrine or sacred booth,
But by following the Savior through the valley to the cross
And by testing faith's resilience through betrayal, pain, and loss.

Lord, transfigure our perception with the purest light that shines,
And recast our life's intentions to the shape of your designs,
Till we seek no other glory than what lies past Calvary's hill
And our living and our dying and our rising by your will.

CONFESSING OUR SIN

God, we are on a journey. We do not know where it will end, and often complain about the road. We know that you are at work, and part of that work requires us to be open to you and to transformation. Forgive us when our hearts are closed to you. We do not always change, nor do we desire to go where you send us. When we harden our spirits to your transforming work, make us malleable. When the road seems long and we complain, show us a better way to be. When the mantle of your leadership is offered to us, help us to accept it as you empower us. Give us ears to hear what you ask us to do, and persistent hearts to follow.

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

JOYFUL RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

VASILE

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nancy Berlin

GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:2-9

MUSICAL OFFERING

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

2 Kings 2:1-12

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

Persistent and Empowered

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our hope is God, our holy Parent,
who makes all things and from whom all blessings flow.
God's faithfulness is the anchor of our hope.
Our trust is in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
More than a teacher,
His life, death, and resurrection giving meaning to our existence.
Christ's faithfulness tethers us to holy mystery.
Our trust is in the Holy Spirit.
Blowing over and through creation, unexpected and untamed,
The Spirit stirs persistence, forgiveness, fruitfulness, and creates families.
The Spirit's faithfulness empowers us and ties together past, present, and future.
Holy Trinity, One God, we believe you transfigure our faith. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF GOD'S CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory Response

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

LAST UNS ERFREUEN

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN

Shine, Jesus Shine

SHINE JESUS SHINE

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us;
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.
 2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me; try me; consume all my darkness.
Shine on me; shine on me. (*Refrain*)
 3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me. (*Refrain*)
- Refrain:* Shine, Jesus, shine;
Fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze;
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow;
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord,
And let there be light.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

Lobe den Herren, den mächtige König den Ehren
Praise the Lord, the mighty King of honor

Johann Gottfried Walther

Notes on Today's Music

The Opening Voluntary - Be Thou My Vision - *Rop tú mo baile, a Choimdiu cride* in Irish Gaelic - is preserved in two manuscripts (National Library of Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy) both dating from the 10th or 11th century. This prayer-hymn belongs to a special category known as a *lorica*, a Latin word meaning "armor" or "breastplate". Clearly referencing Ephesians 6:11-18, such prayers are understood to be an incantation of divine protection. The author is unknown and is likely the work of an anonymous Irish monk from around the 8th century. The rhymed version we use was translated by Eleanor Hull in 1912.

The music is a traditional Irish folk tune first combined with Hull's couplets in the Irish *Church Hymnal* (Dublin, 1919). The combination soon appeared in a number of British hymnals and first appeared in North America in a Canadian hymnal published in 1930.

This setting was arranged for piano and organ by the team of Tedd Smith (b. 1927; London, Ontario, Canada) and Don Hustad (1918-2013). Smith, who trained at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, joined the Billy Graham Evangelical Crusades as pianist in 1950, retiring in 2004. Hustad was organist for the crusades from 1961 until 1967 at which time he joined the faculty at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he was a professor for 40 years.

The text of "Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory" was written by Thomas H. Troeger (b. 1945) based on the account of the Transfiguration that appears in all three Synoptic Gospels. It was first published in *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Louisville, KY., 1990). The first two stanzas lead the singer through a contemplation of the disciples' experience while the third stanza becomes a prayer for enlightenment and a renewed sense of commitment to doing God's will.

The tune GENEVA was composed by George Henry Day (1883-1966) and first published in *The Hymnal 1940* (New York, 1943) of the Episcopal church. The tune name honors Geneva, New York where the composer served as organist-choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Church from 1935 to 1966.

Both the words and music of "Shine, Jesus, Shine" are by Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) and first published in the Spring Harvest Celebration Book Sussex, U.K., 1988). It was first sung in the author's church in London in 1987. In the same year, it was used at a popular U.K. ecumenical Christian gathering and the following year at the eleventh Baptist Youth World Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. It was voted tenth in a 2005 survey of the United Kingdom's favorite hymns by the BBC's Songs of Praise program.

The text for the Benediction in Music was written by Joachim Neander (1650-1680), a German Reformed Church teacher, theologian and hymn writer. Neander wrote more than 60 hymns and provided tunes for many of them. He is considered by many to be the first important German hymnist after the Reformation and is regarded as the outstanding hymn writer of the German Reformed Church. Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748) was a German organist and composer who was one of the first musical lexicographers. Not only was his life almost exactly contemporaneous to that of Johann Sebastian Bach, he was the famous composer's cousin. As a city organist of Weimar, he composed 132 organ preludes based on Lutheran chorale melodies and was famous for his organ transcriptions of orchestral concertos by contemporary Italian and German masters.