

Peace United Church of Christ

February 15, 2026

Transfiguration Sunday

10:30am



*Transfiguration*, Kelly Latimore

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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

\*Call to Worship

God of living Word, you have spoken creation into being, and you continue to speak hope into the world.

**We come as people who love words, who long for clarity, who want to name what we have seen and heard.**

Yet we also come knowing that not every truth can be spoken all at once, and not every moment can be explained.

**Gather us here, on this side of the resurrection, to listen, to learn, and to be prepared for the work you place before us.**

\*Song

*God Is Here!*

#70, *New Century Hymnal*

*God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.*

*Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;  
Here are table, font, and pulpit, here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.*

*Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.*

*Sovereign God, of earth and heaven, in an age of change and doubt  
Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!*

\*Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, we confess that we often want quick solutions and easy answers. We want magic wands, clear victories, and change without cost. Like Peter on the mountain, we would rather stay where glory is visible than walk the hard road of obedience. We speak when silence is required, and we hesitate when courage is needed. Forgive us for avoiding the cross and for resisting the slow, faithful work of leadership, justice, and love. Teach us again that transformation may be costly and peacemaking hard, but you are with us in the fray always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: God does not abandon us to the hard work alone. The Christ who walks toward the cross also walks with us. Friends, know that –

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, we are strengthened. In Jesus Christ, we can work for justice with peace in our hearts.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

\*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Sending the Children

*Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

## Scripture Reading

## Acts 20:7-12

Nate Byrne, reader

On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul was holding a discussion with them; since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight. There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were meeting. A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer.

Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground three floors below and was picked up dead. But Paul went down and bending over him took him in his arms and said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left. Meanwhile they had taken the boy away alive and were not a little comforted.

## Scripture Reading

## Romans 10:14-17

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all have obeyed the good news, for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

## Anthem

## Hands are Knockin, Kyle Pederson

*Naftahhu athhanana, alhamdulillah*

*Naftahhu qulubana, alhamdulillah*

*Namuddu aydeeyana, alhamdulillah*

*We open our minds, thanks to God (Alleluia)*

*We open our hearts, thanks to God (Alleluia)*

*We reach out our hands, thanks to God (Alleluia)*

## Gospel Reading

## 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."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Rev. Dr. Johanna McCune Wagner

## Song

## We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding #182, New Century Hymnal

*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.*

## Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

## The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sung Amen

Offertory

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Song *Some Glad Morning (I'll Fly Away)* #595, *New Century Hymnal*

**Some glad morning when this life is o'er,  
I'll fly away;  
To a home on God's celestial shore,  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away).**

**Refrain:**

**I'll fly away, Oh Glory  
I'll fly away; (in the morning)  
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by,  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away).**

**When the shadows of this life have gone,  
I'll fly away;  
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)**

**Refrain:**

**Just a few more weary days and then,  
I'll fly away;  
To a land where joy shall never end,  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)**

**Refrain:**

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

## Assisting in Today's Service:

Kelli Hallsten-Erickson, saxophone; Kirby Wood, trumpet; Matt Prois, bass;  
Ian Connell, drums; Mike Swanoski, accordion  
Warren Post and Pam Kramer, Ushers  
Marsha & Tom Hystead, Awah Erickson & Kristoff Baseman,  
and April Knight & Brad Davis, Coffee Hour Volunteers