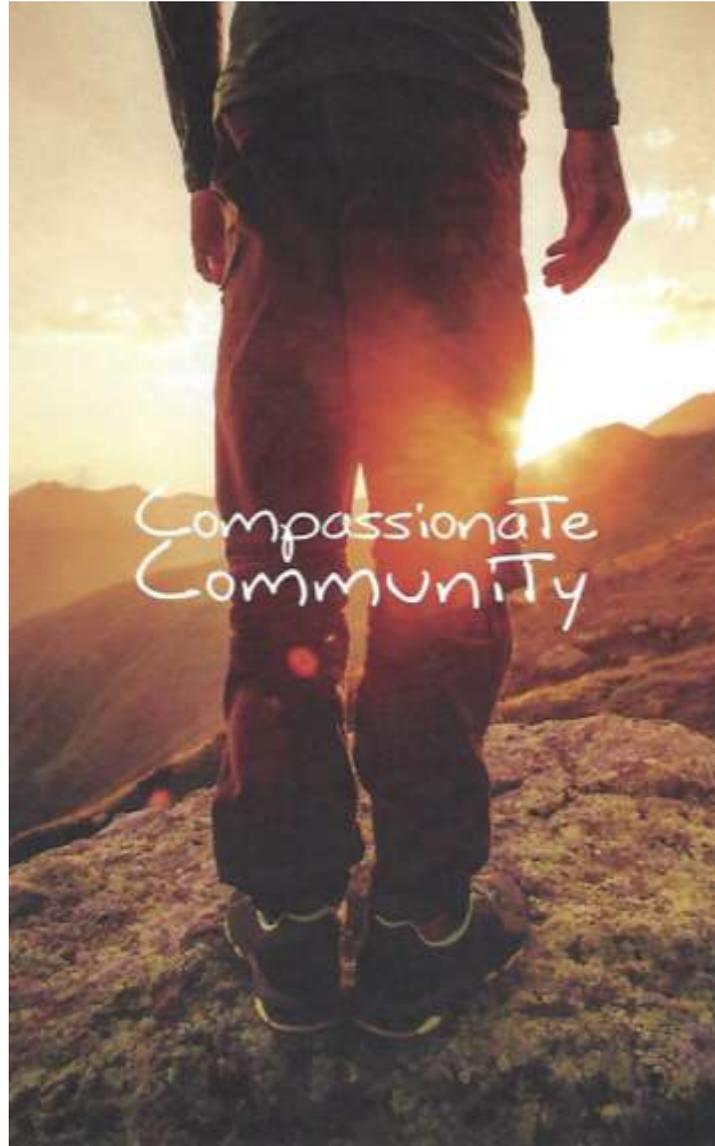


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
36721 Lake Shore Blvd.
Eastlake Ohio 44095 440.951.0291



Transfiguration

WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
36721 Lake Shore Blvd.
Eastlake Ohio 44095 440.951.0291

Website: firstucceastlake.org
Email: pastorfirstucc@gmail.com

*No matter who you are
or where you are in life's journey,
you are welcome and wanted here!*

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation

Ministers - All of us!

Pastor & Teacher - Rev David T Herrin—216.832.3453

Director of Music – Jeffrey Jaskolka

Moderator - Diana Kurzawa

Christian Education - Pastor David

Financial Secretary - Donna Finch

Treasurer - Jim Lutz

Clerk - Judy DePasquale

Facilities Ministry - Charles Rumbold

Leadership Development Ministry - Betsy Taylor

Membership Ministry - Sherry Boyce

OCWM Ministry - Nancy Reeb

Spiritual Life Ministry - Betsy Taylor

Stewardship Ministry - Diana Kurzawa

*** Please rise in body or spirit.**



MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP

Eternal God, you revealed to the disciples the everlasting glory of Jesus Christ. Grant us who have not seen and yet believe, the gift of your Holy Spirit, that we may boldly live the gospel and shine with your transforming glory, as people changed and changing through the redeeming presence of our Savior. Amen.

Apostle Peter

Lord, it is good for us to be here.

Irenaeus of Lyon, 2nd century

The glory of God is a human being fully alive;
and to be alive consists in beholding God.

Thomas Merton, 20th century

We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent,
and God is shining through it all the time.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

We are using the **BLACK Hymnal** today

Prelude ♪

Welcome

Pastor David

Ringing of the Bell

***Gathering Hymn**

#277

Holy, Holy, Holy!

***Call to Worship** *Jeremiah 1, Luke 4.29*

One: We extol you, O Christ the Giver of Life, who for our sakes was transfigured in the flesh on Mount Tabor.

All: Great is God and greatly to be praised: in the city of our God and in God's holy mountain (*Psalm 48:2*)

One: We extol you, O Christ the Giver of Life, who for our sakes was transfigured in the flesh on Mount Tabor.

All: O God, who shall abide in your tabernacle? And who shall dwell in your holy mountain? (*Psalm 15:1*)

One: Today all things are filled with joy:

All: Christ is transfigured before the disciples! Alleluia!

***Opening Hymn #183** *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*

***Invocation and Lord's Prayer**

Before your crucifixion, O Lord, you took your disciples up a high mountain. You were transfigured before them shining on them the bright beams of your glory and majesty. In your love for humanity and in your sovereign might you desire to show them and us the splendor of the coming resurrection. Grant that we too, in peace may be counted worthy of this splendor, for you are merciful and love all humankind and we now pray your prayer saying: 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, for ever. Amen.

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all crea-tures high and low.

Al-el-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Praise God, in Je-sus ful-ly known:

Cre-a-tor, Word, and Spir-it One.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Right Hand of Fellowship—Bow of Namaste

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S MESSAGE

Hymn of Praise ♪

#182 *We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

Word with young worshippers and Pastoral Message

***Hymn of Reflection♪**

WE PREPARE TO SERVE THE WORLD

♪ *Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*

Prayers of the People-

♪ *Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*

HOLY COMMUNION ON TRANSFIGURATION

Invitation

This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. This is the joyful feast of the people of God, the Transfiguration of Christ. Come, one and all and gather about Christ's table. It is an open table to all who wish to be transfigured. Come and be fulfilled. Come to this table sisters and brothers, as you now are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

Pastor: The Lord of glory is here.

People: The Lord's Spirit is with us.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

♪ **Communion Hymn #332** *As We Gather at Your Table*

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Holy One, creator of heaven and earth. O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon Mount Tabor: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his

countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory. We praise you, joining our voices with all the company of the heavens, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Merciful God, as your children being transfigured in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus the Christ. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat: This is my body.” **People: Amen!**

Pastor: Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: “Drink of it, all of you’ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” **People: Amen!**

Pastor: We remember Christ’s promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, and we boldly say what we believe:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened and we may recognize the transfigured and risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

People: Come, Holy Spirit! Transfigure us in brilliance and in glory!

Pastor: The bread which we break is a means of sharing in the body of Christ. And the cup over which we give thanks is a means of sharing in the transfiguring life of Christ. Come for all things are ready.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus the Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our transfigured Savior. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** ♪ #1 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

After the Closing Hymn, we make a circle around the outside of the pews for the Commissioning and Blessing.

***Commissioning** *Matthew 4:10*

Christ has been revealed to us that we might follow him and transform and transfigure the world. Go in love; work for peace.

♪ *Halle, halle, hallelujah (3x) Hallelujah, hallelujah!*

***Blessing**

You were transfigured on the mountain O Christ our God showing to your disciples your glory as each one could endure. Shine forth now on us who are sinners all, your life ever unending. Through the prayers of your faithful ones, Bestower of Light glory to you!

♪ *Halle, halle, hallelujah (3x) Hallelujah, hallelujah!*

***Postlude** ♪

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Join us for coffee hour following worship. We don't serve just a cup of coffee, we serve a cup of justice!

If you are interested in learning more about First United Church of Christ, or becoming a member, please speak to our Pastor or Moderator.

Please sign our guestbook as you leave worship today

Office Hours: By appointment.

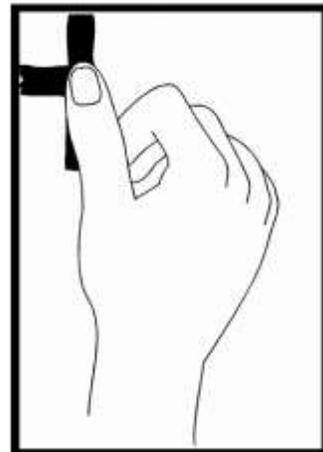
Next Sunday

—First Sunday of Lent—Ash Wednesday Service

Youth and Adult Group Lenten Study

Our Theology Thursday will offer a program on spirituality designed specifically for our youth. It is entitled ***Holy Living: A Youth Lenten Study***. It is a 6 week series and will begin on Thursday February 18. We'll meet from 6.30-8.00 at the latest. Adults are welcomed to attend. Let this be an inter-generational study!

Please pick up the handouts today!



TRANSFIGURATION

February 14, 2021

Mark 9:2-9

Compassionate Community *Racial Justice Sunday* *Science and Technology Sunday*

By a coincidence of the calendar (or perhaps a “God-incidence” of the calendar) today sees the collision of several different religious and secular observances. Today is Transfiguration Sunday, observed throughout Christendom as the day that the disciples saw Jesus for the first time as a truly divine being. In the United Church of Christ, we designate this Sunday as both Racial Justice Sunday and Science and Technology Sunday. And this also happens to be what has become the secular holiday of St. Valentine’s Day.

Observing so many different, and seemingly contradictory, holidays and designations on the same day can seem confusing. It may seem as if they are in competition with each other, and that if we lift up one, then another may fall by the side.

We can hold all of these together, however, as we celebrate this day as what it means to be progressive Christians. **“Progressive Christianity is characterized by a willingness to question tradition, acceptance of human diversity, a strong emphasis on social justice and care for the poor and the oppressed, and environmental stewardship of the earth. Progressive Christians have a deep belief in the centrality of the instruction to “love one another” (John 15:17) within the teachings of Jesus Christ. This leads to a focus on promoting values such as compassion, justice, mercy, and tolerance, often through political activism.”* *Wikipedia.

When we recall the progressive expression of our faith, it takes away the need for competition and a sense of scarcity or anxiety. We remember that in Christ, we are united in love and acceptance. We give thanks that our tent is big enough and wide enough to hold the wonder of miracle, the persistent call to social justice, the yearning for knowledge, and even the sentimentality of a greeting-card holiday.

However you observe this day, give thanks that you do it in company with a great cloud of witnesses who join you in following the same Christ in many ways.