

First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

6915 York Road - Baltimore, MD 21212 (410) 377-5224
www.first-ststephens.org

Ministers	Every Member of the Congregation
Interim Pastor	The Rev. Linda McFadden
Consistory President	Alex Vishio
Music Director	Jeffery Beyers
Administrative Assistant	Joyce Kruse
Sextons	Sam and Grace Marshall

An "Open and Affirming" Congregation

February 14, 2010 **Transfiguration** 10:30 a.m.

Order for the Service of Worship
(*Indicates all those who are able may stand)
("L" indicates Leader, "C" indicates Congregation)

SILENT MEDITATION

Transfiguration is living by vision: standing foursquare in the midst of a broken, tortured, oppressed, starving, dehumanizing reality, yet seeing the invisible, calling to it to come, behaving as if it is on the way, sustained by elements of it that have come already, within and among us. In those moments when people are healed, transformed, freed from addictions, obsessions, destructiveness, self worship or when groups or communities or even, rarely, whole nations glimpse the light of the transcendent in their midst, there the New Creation has come upon us. The world for one brief moment is transfigured. The beyond shines in our midst - on the way to the cross.

~Walter Wink, *Interpretation*

WE GATHER TOGETHER

PRELUDE

SHARING OUR UNITY

MOMENTS WITH THE CHILDREN

INTROIT - CHILDREN'S CHOIR *"Listen to Jesus"* Bernadette Farrell

***CALL TO CELEBRATION**

We gather as the faithful of God, we come to listen to what God has to say to us.

God has invited us to this place: may our faces reflect our hopes and our hearts.

We gather as the faithful of God, people of the new covenant of hope and of promise.

We boldly enter into the presence of God, hoping to be transformed into new people.

We gather as the faithful of God, our fears melting away in the heart of God.

We come to share in the freedom of the Spirit, we come to praise God's holy name.

***OPENING HYMN** *"From All That Dwell Below the Skies"* **NCH 27**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION 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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mountaintops, the clamor of the world hardens our hearts to your Word. We make time for a stream of largely trivial entertainments, yet we have trouble bearing witness to your presence in our lives. Our faith is placed in those who fail us.

Forgive us, Revealer of Mystery. You offer mercy to us, so we might hear your call to discipleship. You whisper our names, so we might know how loved we are. Caught by the surprise of your neverending joy in us, how can we not follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, onto the mountaintops of worship and into the valleys of sacrifice and service!

Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves.

**By God's mercy, we are forgiven;
by God's mercy, we are made whole;
by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

"Halleluja"

NCH 236

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

COLLECT

God of life and glory, your Son was revealed in splendor before he suffered death upon the cross; grant that we, beholding his majesty, may be strengthened to follow him and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

***HYMN**

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

NCH 182

SCRIPTURE READING

Ex. 34:29-35

Hebrew Scriptures, Page 81

Luke 9:28-36

Christian Testament, Pages 69-70

PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 99

NCH 687

SERMON

"Close Encounters of the Life - Changing Kind"

Peggy Cook

***HYMN**

"O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair"

NCH 184

AND RESPOND IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray

CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL RESPONSE

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (V.1)

NCH 472

BRINGING FORTH OF TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS AND PLEDGES (Please sign the friendship pad and pass to those next to you, then leave the pad in the pew.)

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.*

NCH 778

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

"Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

NCH 183

***THE BRINGING OF THE LIGHT OUT OF THE SANCTUARY**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

(The pastor will greet the first person in each row with "May the peace of God be with you." Please respond by saying, "...and with your spirit." Then greet the person next to you with "May the peace of God be with you," etc.)

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *"We Are Marching in the Light of God"* (refrain)

NCH 526

(Sing through once—the organ will play during the Benediction—then sing again with spirit.)

***THE BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Announcements – February 14, 2010
Consistory Person of the Month – Pat Glee

Today's Liturgist:	Alex Vishio
Fellowship Hosts:	Pat Glee
TODAY	Service of Worship Following the service, you are invited to join in a time of fellowship in the Gathering Room 3:00 p.m. Search Committee
MONDAY	President's Day - office closed
TUESDAY	6:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7:30 p.m. Consistory
WEDNESDAY	7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service of Worship
FRIDAY	10:00 a.m. 8th Day Bible Study at Pickersgill
<u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>	9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Church School 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship The Rev. John Deckenbeck will preach and discuss the pastoral search process.

Interfaith Comedy Show to benefit Habitat for Humanity: A Rabbi, A Minister, A Muslim share the stage to bring peace with laughter on Saturday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, 7401 Park Heights Ave., Parkville. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Children 11 and older are welcome. Contact Cheryl Goldsmith at 410/998-9093 for tickets or visit the Habitat website.

Needs for The Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC): Items that are needed by ACTC include: cereal, pork & beans, canned fruit, macaroni & cheese, canned green beans, canned corn, canned peas, jelly & peanut butter, spaghetti & spaghetti sauce, pasta meals, rice, tuna, canned tomatoes, soup, potatoes (canned or boxed), saltines (4-pack per box), Items may be placed in the large basket in the narthex. For more information, call the Assistance Center at 410-296-4855.

Child Care is available in the Nursery for children grades 3 and lower.

What the Living Do

John, the kitchen sink has been clogged for days,
some utensil probably fell down there.
And the Drano won't work but smells dangerous,
and the crusty dishes have piled up

waiting for the plumber I still haven't called.
This is the everyday we spoke of.
It's winter again: the sky's a deep, headstrong blue,
and the sunlight pours through

the open living-room windows because the heat's
on too high in here and I can't turn it off.
For weeks now, driving, or dropping a bag of groceries
in the street, the bag breaking,

I've been thinking: This is what the living do.
And yesterday, hurrying along those
wobbly bricks in the Cambridge sidewalk, spilling my coffee
down my wrist and sleeve,

I thought it again, and again later when buying a hairbrush:
This is it.
Parking. Slamming the car door shut in the cold.
What you called *that yearning*.
What you finally gave up. We want the spring to come
and the winter to pass. We want
whoever to call or not call, a letter, a kiss-we want more and more
and then more of it.

But there are moments, walking, when I catch a glimpse
of myself in the window glass,
say, the window of the corner video store, and I'm gripped
by a cherishing so deep

for my own blowing hair, chapped face, and unbuttoned coat
that I'm speechless:
I am living. I remember you.

Marie Howe