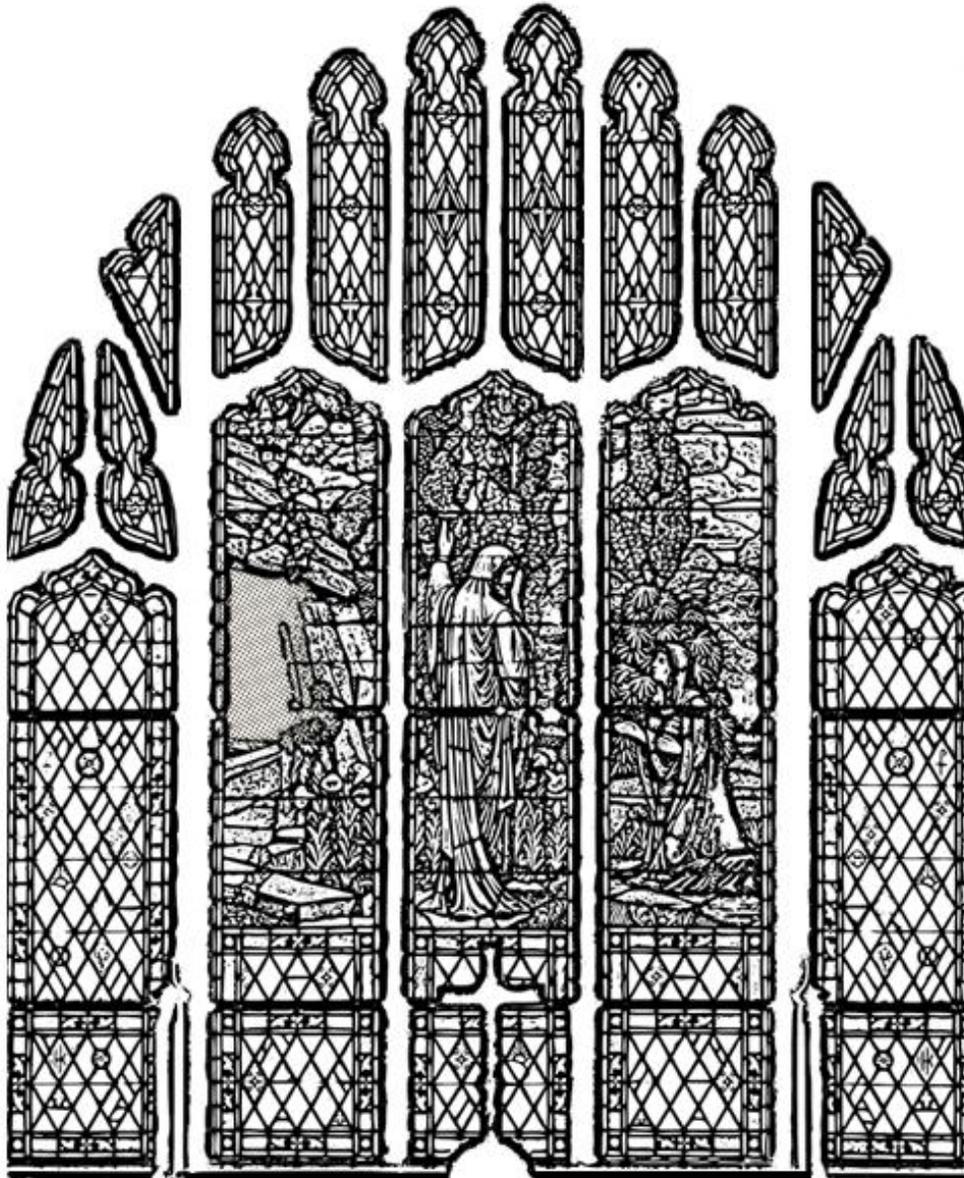


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, February 15, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

Transfiguration Sunday

3319 WEST LIBERTY AVENUE ... PITTSBURGH, PA 15216 ... 412-531-7131

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, PASTOR ... tstrandburg@mlumc.org



Sunday, February 15, 2026 – Transfiguration Sunday

What symbol would you choose to replace the Valentine's heart? One answer lies in today's epistle reading, and it's a better icon for the endless renewal required for successful loving relationships — with each other and with Christ. Let us celebrate the steady, daily rising of a star — the morning star, Jesus Christ, who rises in our hearts. And let us resolve to display such star quality in our own loving relationships!

**Indicates an invitation to stand in spirit or posture, as able.*

The Prelude

A Pleasant Thought

Florence B. Price (1887-1953)

As the prelude begins, all are humbly asked to conclude any conversation and make use of this moment of quietude to prepare your hearts and minds for the worship of Almighty God.

The Introit (10:45)

Transfiguration

Kathryn Rose (b.1980),
Text: Thomas Thurman

What's seen is seen and cannot be unknown; and so he turned my soul, and turns it still.

We'd walked a while, just him and us alone; we'd wandered up some ordinary hill.

The air was old. The conversation died. I'd wondered if I'd left the stove alight.

*The curtains of the world were torn aside; and naked glory overwhelmed my sight;
and oh, the voice, that called to him by name, so comforting, so terrible to hear:*

that man I knew, the same, yet not the same, touches my arm and tells me not to fear;

but as I raise my eyes, the light is gone, and life, and something more, must carry on.

All rise, in body or spirit, at the sound of the chimes.

***Opening Hymn**

"Be thou my vision"

UMH 451

*** The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ On this Transfiguration Sunday, we gather on the mountaintop with Jesus,
wondering what we will encounter.

℞ **We come to encounter God's glory revealed.**

∇ We witness the revelation of Christ's divinity made plain before us.

℞ **We come to witness God's glory revealed.**

- ∇ We remember that God's glory is not about spectacle but truth, not about show but about Love made real among us.
- ℞ **We come to remember God's glory revealed.**
- ∇ We follow Jesus down from the mountaintop into the valleys, as God's glory goes before us and behind us.
- ℞ **We come to be sent out to share God's glory revealed. Thanks be to God!**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**Radiant God, Source of Light,
as you surrounded Jesus with your glory,
so you come to us in a penetrating brightness.
You catch us off guard and expose our weaknesses.
We choose the limelight,
while you call us to explore the shadows and brighten the darkness.
We seek the spectacular,
while you bind up the broken in countless acts of mercy.
We seek to stay on the mountain or in the comfortable pew,
while you walk the valleys of need.
Radiant God, fill us with the light of Jesus and the courage
to carry the good news into all the corners of the world
and to bring back the joy of your presence. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

"More love to thee, O Christ"

UMH 453

A Message for Young Disciples (10:45 am)

As the young disciples gather at the front of the church, all sing:

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.**

The young disciples (school-age children) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise. Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service. Nursery is available for younger children; please see an usher for directions.

The First Lesson

A Reading from the book of Second Peter

II PETER 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

"O wondrous sight! O vision fair!"

UMH 258

*The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew

MT. 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."

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

The Sermon

“Star Quality”

Rev. Strandburg

***The Affirmation of Faith**

UMH 882

All are invited to stand, in spirit or in posture, and to face the altar as the affirmation of faith is recited.

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

***The Sign of Peace**

℣. The peace of Christ be with you.

℞. And also with you.

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) "Christ, whose glory fills the skies"

UMH 173

The Anthem (10:45 am)

Christ, whose glory fills the skies T. Fredrick H. Candlyn (1892-1964)

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

***The Sending Hymn**

"'Tis good, Lord, to be here"

Inserted below

1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy glo - ry fills the night; Thy
2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy beau - ty to be - hold, Where
3 Ful - fill - er of the past! Prom - ise of things to be! We

face and gar - ments, like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, Thy mes - sen - gers of old.
hail thy bod - y glo - ri - fied, And our re - demp - tion see.

4 Before we taste of death,
We see thy kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright,
And make this hill our home.

5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since thou bidd'st us leave the mount,
Come with us to the plain.

***The Dismissal**

∇. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. Thanks be to God.

***The Benediction & Recessional**

The people remain in place until the altar party has retired.

The Postlude

Sortie-Improvisation for Transfiguration

Prayer Concerns

David Barber, son of Gloria Barber, who is suffering from cancer, that he might have peace and relief from pain.

Gary Henry, undergoing cancer treatment.

The Rev'd **Deborah Ackley-Killian**, undergoing cancer treatment.

Norma Buhrman, enduring serious illness.

For those serving their country or community as first responders or in the armed forces, especially:

SPC Russell Dale - CPT Shaun Hay - LTC Azizi Wesmiller - LTC Matthew Wesmiller

2LT Keith Cable - LTC Zachary Allen Finch - CPL Wyatt Hoover

We pray for victims of violence in our nation and around the world.

*This week, we remember and pray for Christ's body throughout the world, especially remembering this week the church in **Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland.*** (Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches).

Please remember the special concerns of those in our community and throughout our world in your personal prayer life throughout the week. If you wish to solicit prayers from the congregation for any matter (health, travel, special concerns, etc.), please contact the church office to have your concern added to the prayer list.

Leaders in Worship this Morning

ASHER WARD AND OLIVIA SCHMIDT, ACOLYTES

ROB SPICHER, CROSS BEARER

MARCY PICARDI (8:30AM) AND STACEY ROSLECK (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

*The altar flowers this morning given by
Pete and Beth Santore
to the Glory of God
and in celebration of
the Santore family birthdays this month.*

*If you would like to furnish our altars with flowers in memory or celebration; you can use the QR Code or call
the church office at 412-531-7131.*



Chancel Flower Order Form