

February 15, 2026 - Transfiguration Sunday

Welcome & Announcements

Creation Connection How does light transform our world every day? We should welcome the dawn's new light into our world every day! How do you welcome the arrival of the sun each morning? How do you welcome the Son into your life?

Lighting of the Christ Candle

L: Christ is the Light of the World, the source of illumination, hope and salvation which God had blessed into the world. Jesus' luminosity shines in and with us each and every day. Today as we relight the Christ candle, we do so to honour and remember that this light of love was given for us and will never be extinguished.

ALL: Jesus illuminates our lives, our hearts and our way. Let us be true to the pathway which He sets out for us. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination -by Clara H. Scott (1841-1897)

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see; open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine! Amen.

Gathering Hymn All Creatures of Our God and King, VU # 217

All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing: Hallelujah, hallelujah!	O rushing winds and breezes soft, O clouds that ride the winds aloft, Sing praises, hallelujah!	Earth, ever fertile, day by day Brings forth rich blessings on our way: Sing praises, hallelujah!	And everyone of tender heart, Forgiving others, take your part: Sing praises, hallelujah!	Let all things their Creator bless, And worship God in humbleness: Sing praises, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam, Soft shining moon with silver gleam, Sing praises, sing praises, Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!	O rising morn, in praise rejoice; O lights of evening, find a voice: Sing praises, sing praises, Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!	The flowers and fruits that verdant grow, Let them God's glory also show: Sing praises, sing praises, Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!	All wo long pain and sorrow bear, Praise God and yield up all your care: Sing praises, sing praises, Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!	Praise God eternal, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, three in one: Sing praises, sing praises, Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Call to Worship

L: We are called into God's presence

P: We enter God's presence with praise.

L: God's radiance surrounds us and warms us,

P: God's Grace and Power created us, and can change us!

L: As we approach the season of Lent, we humble ourselves, and make ready

P: For Jesus' awesome offer of His life for ours,

L: to eliminate all destructive powers,

P: To uplift and heal us, awaking our inner being,

L: Offering transformation in us, to be seen

P: Through the ways we will love one another, and pray,

All: That God will be with us as we proceed through each day.

Ministry of Music 'Round the Riverside

Hymn *Will You Come and See the Light?* VU # 96

Will you come and see the light from the stable door? It is shining newly bright, though it shone before. It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are; Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?	Will you step into the light that can free the slave? It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save. By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed; Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?	Will you tell about the light in the prison cell? Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well. When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused, Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?	Will you join the hope, a light in the young girl's eyes, of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries? When the lowest and the least Are the foremost at the feast, Will you hide, or decide To meet the light?	Will you travel by the light Of the babe new born? In the candle lit at night There's a gleam of dawn, And the darkness all about Is too dim to put it out: Will you hide, or decide To meet the light?
--	--	---	--	---

Children's Ministry *Candle in a Jar*

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Offering Invitation & Prayer Thank you. Every week you are generous. Today, I again invite you to be generous and make a financial gift to this congregation and to our joint Mission and Service. But I also invite you to be generous with your time and your ability and your faith. We never know what God will do with what we offer. Let's give and find out!

God, we are excited to give and see what you will do with these gifts, through the life and ministry of this congregation and the wider United Church. Amaze us! Inspire us! Energize us! Please! Your faithful people ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction." Then Moses set out with Joshua, his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them."

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 17: 1-9

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Hymn Lead On, O Cloud of Presence, VU # 421

Lead on, O cloud of Presence,
The exodus is come.
In wilderness and desert
Our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us,
New hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise
where milk and honey flow.

Lead on, O fiery Pillar,
we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing
through joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering,
For by your light we come,
And we are still God's people.
The journey is our home.

Lead on, O God of freedom,
And guide us on our way,
And help us trust the promise
through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters
May journey to that land
Where justice swells with mercy,
And love is law's demand.

Message On being Transformed

Moses goes up the mountain to receive the ten commandments (actually, 613 in total). While there, he encounters God in a strange manner. The "Glory of the Lord" comes upon him. In Hebrew, the word is *Shekinah*, meaning "the Light of God's Presence." The *Shekinah* so changed him that when he came down, his face glowed. Think of the blessing (from Numbers 6:25): "May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you." The people experienced Moses in a new light. His face shone so brightly that he would cover it with a cloth, to protect the Israelites from its brilliant glow. Over time this glow would lessen, and later verses tell us that Moses would return to the mountain to repeatedly experience God's Glory, in effect recharging his soul, and therefore, his luminosity or blazing complexion.

The Psalms also reveal to us that God could change human existence and how an encounter with the Holy can make us children of the light. The Epistle of Peter recounts the words from the baptism of Jesus and the Transfiguration, reminders to the early Christian community as it was wrestling with a way to define God in Jesus.

The Greek word for transfiguration is *metamorphothe* (μετεμορφώθη), meaning "he went through a metamorphosis." Was it Jesus alone who went through a metamorphosis or did the disciples go through one as well? Think of the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a butterfly. The same genetic material that goes into the chrysalis comes out as a winged insect, but we now experience it in a different light and with a different understanding. The light of God's presence changes everything, but are we prepared to be changed? Mark Twain is reputed to have said that "the only person who likes change is a baby with a wet diaper." How can we experience this scripture, ourselves, our communities of faith, and our world, in the light of God's presence? This will change everything.

During this coming season of Lent, I do challenge you to give up one thing that is a feature of your life. No, I do not mean giving up chocolate or peanut butter or watching Jeopardy but rather making some change in the way that you act or treat other people, perhaps to stop saying anything judgmental or hurtful that has become a habit when you respond to someone, or something. Maybe we should stop criticizing someone's cooking, perfume, or way of speaking. We can begin to be more supportive and complimentary to those around us, especially our family, or close friends, who we may mock, in jest, so we think, but words and action or inaction can indeed wound others deeply

Let the light of Christ shine through you, and in all that you say and do.

Pastoral Prayer Loving Creator God, in this world in which there is so much discord, disagreement, and disharmony, such abundant hatred, misery, and loss, we welcome the healing light of Your and Your Son's

love. We pray for an ongoing transformation of such evil into their opposite. We beseech you for agreement, harmony and peace, we plead with you for love, abundance and new growth. We fervently entreat you that we humans might learn to appreciate the gifts of life, community, and allegiance - allegiance to You, Your Commandments, Jesus' teachings, and call for brotherly and sisterly love. We hope that through Your grace and spirit leaders may reject violence and armed aggression, the greed of nations, corporations and individuals, who have gained so much influence and power. Enable the force of the spirits of billions of those of your creatures yearning for stability, healing, and peace. Heal those in our community who suffer from physical and mental illness, enrich our health care system to enhance the balms, the medicines, and the services to restore to health our countries, our world, our wounds, hurts and disappointments. Let fear and depression be supplanted by happiness, comfort, through curative, soothing and health-giving programs, policies, and the overthrowing of the reign of greed. Let the light of Christ radiate outward and inward, revolutionizing our existence, so that we can return to the Garden where all know that they are valued, supported, and loved. In the name of our guiding and transforming light, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Parting Hymn *In Christ There is No East or West*, VU # 606

In Christ there is no east or west,	In him shall true hearts everywhere	Join hands, then people east and west,	In Christ now meet both east and west,
In him no south or north, But one great family of love	Their high communion find,	What e'er your race may be;	In him meet south and north;
Throughout the whole wide earth.	His service is the golden cord	All children of the living God	All Christ-like souls are one in him
	Close binding humankind.	Are surely kin to me.	Throughout the whole wide earth.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were “shriven” (absolved from their sins).

Prayer before lunch Lord, as we prepare to eat our pancakes and sausages, we pledge to do so while now asking for the forgiveness of our sins, thinking during these forty days of Lent about Jesus' time on the mountain, and all that he was willing to give up for us. Amen

Commissioning & Benediction In the brilliance of our Saviour's light, we are transformed, and must do our very best to allow this change in us and in how we interact with the world, setting our fear of change aside, and embracing the warm glow of this blessed grace.

Choral Benediction *Light of Christ*

Light of Christ shine in and through me.
Light of Love be with me now.
Take these hands, healing hands.
Light of Christ flow through me now.

Choral Amen