

**The United Church of Canada
Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
Black History Month
Transfiguration Sunday, February 15, 2026
Kilbride 9:30 a.m.; Carlisle 11:00 a.m.**



Photo: Lindsay Glennie, United Church of Canada
Mission & Service blog

Minister: Rev. M. Gayle MacDonald
Email: mgmacd@gmail.com; **Cell:** 289-442-8420
Music Leader: Dr. Heather Olaveson
Office Administrator: Andrea McRae
Phone: 905-689-8630 **Email:** secretary@carlisleuc.ca

*Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud where indicated by **bold print**.*

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Welcome to this place and to this time together. We are pleased that you could join us today as your presence helps to enrich the experience of worship.

As we worship God, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of (Kilbride: the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation), (Carlisle: the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation), who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

The Life and Work of the Church

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Celebrations

Lighting of the Christ Candle

It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

The Light of Christ is in our midst.

Gathering

Centring Music: TLUS 9 - Glory, Glory, Glory to God (x2)

Words & Music: Jason D. Locke 2015

Jason Locke is a Toronto-based church musician and composer of sacred music who is currently Minister of Music at Islington United Church. On his blog he shares that he composed this energetic Gloria from *Mass for a New Season* in September 2015 for the congregation of St George the Martyr.

Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest,
glory, glory, glory, to God be praise!
Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth!

Invitation to Worship:

May this time together renew our hope.

May the stories we share refresh our courage.

May the songs we sing lift our spirits and the words we speak invigorate us.

May the touch of hands, the sound of laughter, and the sight of faces new and familiar restore us in faith.

Opening Prayer:

God, always with us,

may our brief, fragile lives build on the work of those who went before us.

May we create a sustainable foundation for those who follow us.
May we stretch our consciousness with open minds and a sense of humble curiosity. May we have courage in uncertain times.
May we recognise new beginnings in what seem to be endings.
Amen.

Hymn: TLUS 129 – We Shall Overcome

African-American spiritual, arr. William Farley Smith 1989

Released in 1964 as part of the album *Let's Pray Together*, this song is performed by the powerful contralto "Queen of Gospel": Mahalia Jackson. The granddaughter of enslaved people, Jackson was an active supporter of Martin Luther King Jr. and the American civil rights movement as well as a woman deeply connected to her Christian faith, as demonstrated by her dedication to performing gospel music.

We Shall Overcome

Prayer for Grace:

Jesus went to the mountain and was changed.
Transformed.

But change is hard for us.

You call us, O God, to change our lives.

But change is hard for us.

You call us, O God, to change our hearts.

But change is hard for us.

You call us, O God, to change our thinking.

But change is hard for us.

Open our lives, our hearts, our thinking.

Open us, O God, to your loving changes.

Amen.

Assurance of Grace:

God is the love that over and around us lies,
the grace that is totally unearned,
and the healing that makes the earth whole.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sung Response: TLUS 9 – Glory, Glory, Glory to God (x2)

Words & Music: Jason D. Locke 2015

Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest,
glory, glory, glory, to God be praise!
Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth!

[Carlisle] Choral Anthem: Climbin' Up the Mountain, traditional spiritual arranged by Walter Ehret

Prayer for Illumination:

Living God, eternal Spirit,
let your bright intoxicating energy
that fired those first disciples
fall on us to turn the world again. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Psalms: Psalm 99 (read responsively)

(Paraphrased by James Taylor, Everyday Psalms)

1 Raise your sights from the ruts of routine;

look up, look up, to the Lord who stands above everything.

2 For God is greater than any abstract theory,
any set of principles or moral values.

3 God embodies all that is right and good.

4 Whatever is true, honest, and just,
whatever is pure, lovely, and admirable –
if it deserves praise or commendation, it is of God.

5 But we mortals keep our heads down.

Like ants at a picnic, we busy ourselves with crumbs
and miss the bigger picture.

God is too great for us to grasp.

6 We know God through the lives of those who have known God.

7 Our spiritual ancestors stumbled over God's unexpected presence;
when they stubbed their toes, God forgave them

8 because they were willing to learn.

God watched over them, guiding their feet.

9 In God, we find the ultimate example
of how we should act towards others.

Sung Response: TLUS 9 – Glory, Glory, Glory to God (x2)

Words & Music: Jason D. Locke 2015

Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest,
glory, glory, glory, to God be praise!
Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth!

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

17:1 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.

17:2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light.

17:3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

17:4 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."

17:5 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!"

17:6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

17:7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

17:8 And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

17:9 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."

Response:

The words of our faith spoken among us.

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Reflection

Hymn: VU 104 – We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. 1988; Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor 1941

In *Voices United*, Carl Daw's 1988 lyrics on the Transfiguration of Jesus are set to Cyril Vincent Taylor's tune ABBOT'S LEIGH, which you will recognize from other hymns such as "God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness." Organist Rob Charles performs this tune on a three-manual Conacher organ at All Saints Church in Oystermouth, Swansea, Wales.

[Father Lord Of All Creation \(Abbots Leigh\) All Saints Church Oystermouth Swansea](#)

- 1 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.
- 2 Light breaks in upon our darkness;
splendour 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.

- 3 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.

Mission and Service: (Carlisle)

United Church of Canada, published on January 20, 2026

In many places in February, winter persists with its short days and lingering cold. Everything seems to take a little more effort – getting out the door, checking in on one another, and finding energy when the season feels heavy. This time of year can feel long. But it's also a reminder that care is deeply needed. Through Mission and Service, that care shows up in practical, meaningful ways. Through your generosity, Mission and Service partners are a consistent presence in the middle of winter – whether there's snow or heat. Partners are supporting people facing food insecurity, displacement, isolation, and uncertainty. Your support becomes warmth, stability, and care where it's needed now. Hope in winter doesn't have to be dramatic. Sometimes it looks like consistency. Sometimes it looks like staying engaged in the face of enduring hardships. Mission and Service partners respond to the needs of their communities with commitment and creativity – and your support is needed to give them the flexibility to do that work well. Thank you for continuing to walk alongside Mission and Service partners. Your generosity makes a difference – steadily and when it matters most.

Offering Prayer:

Life-giving Spirit,
bring to the bones of these gifts
the flesh of our actions and the breath of our caring,
that our church and our service to others
may come to life in your name. Amen.

Offertory: VU 541 – Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Words: Thomas Ken ca. 1674; Music: Genevan Psalter 1551

Doxologies are short expressions of praise to God, often sung to the Holy Trinity. Written by the 17th-century Anglican bishop and hymnist Thomas Ken, our metrical VU 541 is the best-known English doxology and is a variation on the Latin "Gloria Patri." It is sung by the American Christian vocal quartet Anthem Lights and contemporary Christian vocal trio Selah, both originating from Nashville, Tennessee.

The Doxology | Anthem Lights ft. Selah

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Prayers of the People & Prayer of Jesus:

Sing into Prayer: VU 661 (v.3) Come to My Heart

Words & Music: Joe Pinson 1979

The Praise Singers of Windsor Park United in Winnipeg perform Joe Pinson's 1979 hymn in this lyric video.

"Come to My Heart"

3 Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
 teach me to walk in your way.
 Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
 answer my prayer today.
 Give me the peace and joy
 that only you can bring.
 Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
 give me a song to sing.

Hymn: MV 88 (vv. 1-3) – Over My Head

Words & Music: African-American spiritual

Strap in for an energetic performance by the Angels Gospel Choir at a theatre in Italy, demonstrating the popularity of spirituals the world over. "Over My Head" originated in the 19th century and, in 1961, American civil rights leader Bernice Johnson Reagon changed the words to "Over my head, I see freedom in the air...."

Over my head - Angels Gospel Coro

*Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a god somewhere.*

1 When the storms of life are ragin':
 I hear music in the air.
 When the storms of life are ragin':
 I hear music in the air.
 When the storms of life are ragin':
 I hear music in the air.
 There must be a God somewhere. R

- 2 When the winds of strife are blowin':
 I hear music in the air.
 When the winds of strife are blowin':
 I hear music in the air.
 When the winds of strife are blowin':
 I hear music in the air.
 There must be a God somewhere. R
- 3 When the tide of hate is risin':
 I hear music in the air.
 When the tide of hate is risin':
 I hear music in the air.
 When the tide of hate is risin':
 I hear music in the air.
 There must be a God somewhere. R

Commissioning:

In Jesus' transfiguration, we experienced the overwhelming brilliance of self-giving love, revealing within the ordinary commonness of flesh and bone the wonder of God's good news, living love that transforms.

Go down from the mountain, the high places, and out into the world, transformed in the name of Love to bring healing and light into the world.

Benediction

Sung Blessing: Go Now In Peace

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price 1988; Music: Don Besig 1988

Published in 1988 by Harold Flammer, Besig and Price's benediction is performed by the Chancel Choir of the Village Community Presbyterian Church in Rancho Santa Fe, California.

[Go Now in Peace - Don Besig - YouTube](#)

Go now in peace; never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen!

Online Postlude: We Shall Overcome

Bishop Paul S. Morton Sr. and the Greater St. Stephen Mass Choir give an extremely passionate and energetic performance of a gospel song that became a powerful protest anthem of the American civil rights movement in the 1950s and 60s. This recording was made in July of 1993 and can be found on the choir's album *We Offer Christ*.

[Greater Saint Stephen Mass Choir singing We Shall Overcome](#)

Credits

Cover Photo: Lindsay Glennie, United Church of Canada, Mission & Service blog

From Rex A.E. Hunt Liturgies: Invitation to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer

From *Celebrate God's Presence*: Prayer for Grace, Assurance of Grace, Prayer for Illumination, and Offering Prayer

From *Gathering ACE* 2025/26, used with permission: Commissioning (adapted) written by Gord Dunbar, p.50