

Worship on February 27, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

(Welcoming Elder: Kevin Johnston)

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 490 God of grace and God of glory
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Prayer for our children
- Praise song – BOP 187 We have come at Christ' own bidding

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Luke 9:28-36
- Sermon: Transfiguration of Jesus, the hope for us
- Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 376 Shine Jesus Shine

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, February 27, 2022. It is great to be back in the building. Be safe always and hopefully, we will be more connected and will be able to restore our relationships with each other and with God as we worship together.

. This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which is the beginning day of Lent. In this Lenten season, let us remember the love of our God for us.

. The Rev. Soong had a good vacation. Thank you all. The Rev. Soong will have his office hours on Wednesday mornings and Saturday mornings. Please let him know if you need to talk to him.

. We will have the Communion next week.

. Prayer is unseen, yet powerful. If you have prayer needs, let us know.

Cheryl Daddis @ cheryl@pathcom.com or Soong @ revsoonghuh@hotmail.com

. We thank you very much for those who are faithfully serving Martha's Table and those who helped with baking. Please keep Martha's Table in your thoughts and prayer.

. 150th Anniversary Coffee Mug, 2022 PCC Calendar are on sale. Please message Anne or Soong or your district elder.

. Thank you for your continuing support with your gifts. As we offer our gifts to the Lord, let us give our hearts and our lives to the Lord as well. May God be in the centre of your hearts.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us calm down our hearts and minds, and focus on our Lord.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Our God is mighty and merciful, ruling with kindness over all the earth;

All: Let all people praise God's holy name.

One: The Lord loves justice and creates equity for all God's people;

All: We come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing songs of joyful praise;

One: For the Christ of glory shines in this place;

All: The Holy Spirit meets us here, and so we come to worship.

Praise song – BOP 490 – God of grace and God of glory

<u>Vs. 1</u> God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story bring its bud to glorious flower Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.	<u>Vs. 2</u> Lo! The hosts of evil round us, scorn thy Christ, as sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to love and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.
<u>Vs. 3</u> Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.	<u>Vs. 5</u> Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of grace and God of glory, you reveal your presence to the world in radiant glory and gentle whispers, on mountain tops and lowly plains, in classrooms and hospital beds, in homes and churches, in the silence of nature and the sounds of cities, and in Russia and Ukraine, and all the places remembering them. ///pause..

Yours is the presence that pushes past our fears, yours is the touch that transforms our doubts.

We come before you to celebrate your goodness, to focus on your light, and offer you all praise, honour and thanksgiving, for you are our God and we are your people, now and always.

God of mercy and forgiveness, facing the light of your goodness, we confess all that keeps us from sharing that goodness. We are distracted by the desire to have more than we need. We focus on our own disappointments rather than trust the future you create. We feel discouraged by the pandemic and fail to claim the hope you hold out to us in Christ. Transfigure us by your grace, and shape us into disciples who follow Christ's leading each day.

This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those

who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Andrew's, Do not be afraid. God's forgiveness shines into the world. God's grace is poured out into the whole world. God's love is embracing those who seek his face. The morning star rises in our hearts and we are made new. Know that you are forgiven and forgive one another in Christ's name.

Prayer for children

Heavenly Father. You are big and we are so small. With your power help the people in need. We pray for Ukraine and Russia. You are the King of all nations. Pour out your wisdom upon them, so they stop violence but start peace.

We pray for these growing children and youth. With your love and grace, establish in their hearts the firm foundation of your truth. Fix their eyes on Jesus alone. Thank you for bringing them to your presence. Be the centre of their lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song BOP 187 We have come at Christ's own bidding

<u>Vs. 1</u> We have come at Christ's bedding 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	<u>Vs. 2</u> 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.
<u>Vs. 3</u> 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	

Prayer for Illumination:

God of all wisdom and truth, we seek your guidance as we hear the Scriptures read and interpreted today. Send your Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts, to give us fresh understanding and a renewed commitment to follow your Word. Amen

Scripture: Luke 9:28-36

28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30 Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with

him. 33 Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. 34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35 Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” 36 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: Transfiguration of Jesus, the hope for us.

Today’s sermon title is “Transfiguration of Jesus, the hope for us.”

First of all, thank you so much for my two week vacation. I had a good restful time during my time off. I was not able to go anywhere but I was able to refresh my mind. Thank you.

Also, last Wednesday was my 2nd anniversary of my ordination and induction. It was a meaningful day and we had our Session meeting that night. Haha.

Thank you for bearing with me for two years. Please continue to pray for me so that I keep intimacy with God and fully awake and fully attentive to God’s guidance. Also, let us pray together for the revival of ourselves in our personal worship, communal worship, and eventually, our total life before God.

So, today, Jesus transforms. Trans means to change and figure or form is the appearance. Jesus changes his appearance in our given text today. **V29, “And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.”**

Bright white. What do you think of this? Glory. Pure. Different from us.

God revealed his glory through Jesus when he was praying. In other words, when Jesus humbled himself before God and submitted himself to God in prayer, God exalted him. God poured out his glory upon Jesus. This can be applied to us. When we humble ourselves before God and submit ourselves to God’s will, God will exalt us. God will honour us. It is not easy to humble ourselves. We need to give up what we think it’s right. We have to give up our own ways, our own desires, our own willingness. Jesus prayed to God regularly. The Bible repeatedly states that Jesus prayed to God. Jesus listened to God. Jesus did what God wanted. By prayer, Jesus tuned up his wants with God. Jesus aligned his heart’s desires to God’s wills. How are we doing in our prayer?

Last Sunday, from the church I visited, the pastor gave an example. People want to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. One of them is speaking tongues. They desired for it and prayed for it. They received the gift of speaking tongues. But, when you think about speaking tongues, it’s the prayer of own spirit in different languages. I’ve seen someone speaking Chinese. I don’t understand Chinese, but I was able to tell it’s Chinese. I’ve seen people just repeating ah-dadadada, or saying one same syllable repeatedly. I don’t speak in tongue, so I asked them how they feel. They feel like their spirit is connected to God directly. But, most of the times, they don’t understand what they are praying in tongues.

Okay. They have the gift of speaking in tongue. They feel intimacy with God through it. Very good. HOWEVER, that is it. Praying in speaking tongue could benefit community. It can reveal the wills of God. They can reveal the glory of God through it. However, most of the time, they don’t seek the gift of translation, wisdom, or knowledge. So, they only can receive the speaking in tongues. This is their limitation. They are not interested in more. They fulfilled their own desire and they stop growing there.

If we don't pray, if we don't tune our desires to God's desire, this can happen.

Look at what Russian president Vladimir Putin. I don't know all the details, but it seems to me that he is blinded for his own desires. He has power. He has people. But, this is all he could see. There could be much more than I can imagine, but his desire is much important than world peace for him. Putin's example is a good example of seeking own fleshly desire. This happens to us if we don't pray and align our desires to God's will.

Jesus' disciple, Peter, was fascinated by Jesus' transfiguration. He was amazed by the dazzling glory of God seen in Jesus. In addition, there were Moses and Elijah. He wanted to stay there in the glory. It is the same as the people who only want speaking of tongues. Do not misunderstand me. Speaking in tongues is an amazing gift of God. I am telling the negative consequence of the fleshly desire of the gift of God. They stop growing. They limit the power of God. God's will is beyond receiving speaking of tongues. It could go further to understanding what they are praying and explain the will of God to the congregation. But, they only enjoy the feeling of the connectedness of their spirits to God's. Here, Peter, wanted to remain there for the rest of his life. He wanted to set up tents. What about the people who follow Jesus' teaching? What about the sick? What about the rest of the disciples?

Jesus didn't even answer to what Peter said. Instead, v34 and 35, **"While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'"**

Picture this. Peter is still speaking, but the cloud came and cover Peter, John, and James. This is like, God is saying to Peter, be quiet and see what I am doing. Give up your desire, but learn my desire.

The voice came from the cloud. "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him." "This is my Son, my beloved."

This is the reminder of God's appearance and glory before the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. After Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, **Mark 1:11, And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'**

When we are stuck with our own desires, God intervenes. God gives us the reminder of whom we should listen to. God helps us remember the important God experience in our lives. In glory, God speaks to us. "This is my Son, my Chosen, my Beloved; listen to him." Do not listen to your own voice from your inside. Listen to Jesus.

This is our guidance. We have the guidance of God. This transfiguration of Jesus reveals the glory of God. It tells that Jesus is God's Chosen One. Jesus is God's Beloved Son. At the same time, it teaches us whom we should follow and whose voice we should listen to.

Jesus is our Hope. On this Transfiguration Sunday, let us remember our true hope. I like Starbucks. Do you know the coffee **True North**? Starbucks launched special Canadian Coffee about 20 years ago. For few weeks, they collected the new name for special Canadian Coffee. It was a contest and I also applied many brilliant names. But mine was not chosen, but True North was taken. When I found out the name, I nodded. **True North** is the direction that

points directly towards the geographic North Pole. This is fixed and not changing. This becomes the guidance for the sailors. This also means loyalty because of its unchanging faithfulness.

What is our True North?

Our only Hope and our only True North is Jesus.

Let us fix our eyes on the direction which leads us to true life. Let us look upon Jesus.

This is the word of Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God:

Gracious Father God, you are the King of glory. We honour you and we praise you. You are our guidance and you are our only hope. Jesus, you are the Chosen One of God and you are the Beloved Son of God. And you chose us. And you love each and every one of us with your everything. Thank you.

Through the glory revealed to us through your transfiguration, help us remember your glory and your guidance for us. You are our only True North.

Gracious Father God, we need you. You are the Prince of peace. We pray for Russia and Ukraine. Grant peace upon them. May your righteousness and mercy be overflowing upon them. Protect each individual in this situation. There are people who are seeking your face. Grant them their prayers. Grant them their needs. Grant them their desperate hearts' desire. Lord, we pray for the churches in Russia and Ukraine. Fill them with your Holy Spirit and help them make changes. We pray for the authorities and leaders of both countries. Fill their hearts with the fear of your presence. Fill their hearts with your truth. Make them stand before you and help them realize your guidance. Intervene their plans and take the control of this situation. You are the King and you are the Lord. Help us trust your faithfulness and help us place our hope and dreams in you alone. Please stop this violence, Lord.

We thank you that we can reopen our church building so that we can have in-person worship from today. Protect us from this virus and help us do our best to keep everyone safe and well. Give us wisdom and fill our hearts with your love, so that we can embrace each other with your love.

We pray for the people who are sick. Fill their physical needs. Grant them pain free life. Grant them health. Heal them.

We pray for the people who are burdened and who are carrying too much. Speak to them your peace. Encourage them that they are not alone. Tell them that they can rest in you. They can gain strength and energy in your presence. Give them courage so they can come to you. You have all the answers we need.

We also pray for the people who are in need. You are our rich Father. You have all. And we are sisters and brothers in you. Open our hearts for each other, help us share what we have received from you. Give us wisdom and courage to share.

On this coming Wednesday, this year's Lenten season begins. Gracious Father God. God of love, help us remember your amazing love in this season. Help us restore the intimacy with you. We are desperate for you. We long for you. Grant our prayers, O God. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering.

God has been revealed in glory for the healing of the world. We have glimpsed that healing in the hope we share in Christ, even in these challenging times. Let us present our gifts to God so that this healing and hope will continue to spread in the world God loves.

Offering prayer:

Gracious God, you have given us life and blessed us in Christ with new life. Bless the gifts we offer today, and bless our lives, so that others may see his grace working in us and what we offer the world in Jesus' name.

Song for the Journey BOP#376 Lord, the light of your love is shining

<u>Vs. 1:</u> Lord, the light of your love is shining in the midst of the darkness shining; Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us. Set us free by the truth you now bring us.	<u>Vs. 2:</u> Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance; by your blood I may enter your brightness. Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
<u>Vs. 3:</u> As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory. Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.	<u>Chorus:</u> Shine on me. Shine on me. Shine Jesus Shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our heart on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your word, Lord and let there be light!

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. When Jesus prayed, his face changed and his clothes became dazzling white. God's glory was revealed through Jesus. When we pray, there will be change. God will work through us. Put your hope in Jesus and remember God's guidance for our daily lives.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.