

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

**The First Church in Belfast
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
February 11, 2018
10:00 a.m.**

WE ARE GATHERED IN

WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP

The season of Epiphany begins with a star in the sky
and ends with a blaze on a mountain top!

Our God is revealed in light,
and walks with us in the dark.

Like the disciples, we all have a mountain to climb,
challenges to meet,
and visions to see!

Come, let us climb the mountain together!

With each step, we move closer to the glory of God!

Let us worship!

***OPENING HYMN**

tune: MARION

“Behold! The Light!”

words: Rev. Kate Winters, Belfast, 2016

A journey we are on, / traversing space and time,
We’ve come this far only to face / a daunting mountain climb.
Behold! The light! / Behold the light of God!

Our path is steep and long, / our breathing deep and fast,
But hand in hand we travel on, / the summit clear at last!
Behold! The light! / Behold the light of God!

Behold the light of God, / revealed in this high place.
The glory of the One beloved, / it shines on Jesus’ face!
Behold! The light! / Behold the light of God!

Alas, dear journey friends, / your own dear hearts ignite,
Live in the love that is your God / this radiance of light!
Behold! The light! / Behold the light of God!

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

CHORAL ANTHEM "Like a Mighty Stream"

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE AND MINISTRY
CHUBBY SUNDAY!

***GREETING OF PEACE**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (2X)
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

MEDITATION

-silence-

WORDS OF GRACE

by Eugene H. Peterson

There is nothing more pedestrian (literally!) than walking on a way, a road, a path. But the moment we put one foot in front of the other, we very well might find ourselves on a pilgrimage. Walking could turn out to be the most significant spiritual act in which we will ever engage. And the road we walk on the holiest piece of ground. Feet and faith are inextricably integrated.

Pilgrimage is the ancient practice of walking, usually with others, to a holy site while paying prayerful attention to everything that takes place within and without, soul and body, all the ways that are inherent in the Way, along with companions who are also on the Way. Way is the most prominent metaphor both within and outside Scripture for enlisting our imaginations, and hopefully our involvement, in living concretely, responsively, immediately, with our muscles and bones, brains and voices, the nerve endings in our fingers and the calluses on our feet...

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING

2 Kings 2:1-12 Carl Goodwin-Moore

GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:2-9

MESSAGE

"Hiking with Jesus"

***HYMN**

"I Want Jesus to Go with Me"

#490

WE LIVE THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

INVITATION TO GIVE

***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.

(Note: The First Church honors the diverse languages of faith. Please sing with words that are meaningful to you. Other versions of the Doxology are found in our hymnal, #776-781.)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Good and gracious God, we offer these gifts to you with open hands and hearts. May we use them to build a ministry of love here and now that transforms our community as it transforms us in the way of Jesus. Amen.

WE ARE SENT AND BLESSED

***CLOSING HYMN** “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

#182

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE