

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, RAPHAEL (ITALIAN 16TH CENTURY)

THE COLLECTION OF THE VATICAN MUSEUMS, ROME

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

FEBRUARY 19, 2023 10:30AM

Grace Notes

Welcome to WHPC! If you are visiting us today, we are so glad you joined us for worship. If you have not already, please take a moment to record your contact information on the visitor card you will find in the pew and drop it in the offering box or hand it to a greeter at the door. We are always glad to share the great things happening at WHPC!

If you are looking for a new church home and would like to join in fellowship with Westover Hills, please join us in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) and we will gladly share more about life at WHPC or, if you are ready, receive you into membership.

Childcare is available in the nursery. Please check with a greeter.

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Indicates the congregation is invited to stand.*

Bold text indicates unison readings.

WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP Dr. Robert Wm Lowry, Pastor

PRELUDE David Austin, Music Director

CALL TO WORSHIP H.K. Stewart, Liturgist

Today we are celebrating the holy light that illuminated Jesus.

We celebrate his transfiguration on the mountain.

Light of light: transfusing & transforming light.

Divine light flooding out the shadows.

Light of love, light of delight.

Light that turns doubters into followers.

It is the same God who at the beginning said:

“Let there be light,”

**who shines in our hearts with an understanding
of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

The mightiest One of all, God the Eternal,

speaks and summons the whole earth

from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**From God's holy mountain, God's light,
the perfection of beauty, shines out.**

OPENING PRAYER

O Still Speaking God,
throughout history and the wide world
you have gathered people around your Word
to instruct and inspire.

We give thanks for all who have received your vision
and shaped diverse and faithful communities to follow in your Way.

Continue to open that vision to us,
that we may become transformed
by the renewing of your Word in our hearts.

Enable us to grow in love and understanding for each other.

Create in us, O God, clean hearts and minds;

Let us join with you in your suffering and your triumph.

We desire to be your children

and we claim these blessings in your name. Amen.

Grace Notes

Although written as an Epiphany hymn, this text tells the key disclosures of Jesus messiahship: the coming of the Magi, his baptism by John, and the wedding at Cana. All are summed up in the last verse and the Transfiguration.

Transfiguration Sunday is the culmination of the Epiphany season and the last Sunday before the season of Lent.

+HYMN OF PRAISE

"Sing of God Made Manifest"

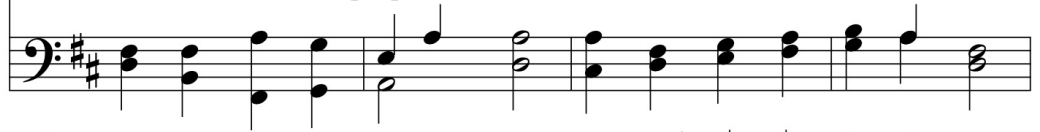
SALZBURG



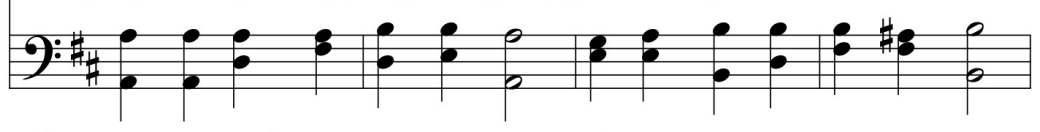
1 Sing of God made man - i-fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
2 Sing of God made man - i-fest when at Jor - dan John con-fessed,
3 Sing of God made man - i-fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
4 Sing of God made man - i-fest on the cloud-capped moun-tain's crest,



to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid-ed them,
"I should be bap-tized by you, but your bid-ding I will do."
and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re-mained:



ma - gi came and gifts un-bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro-found:
Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove-like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
fur - ther still was love re-vealed as he taught, for-gave, and healed,
glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face



myrrh and frank-in-cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.
hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
bring - ing light and life to all who would lis-ten to God's call.
towards the wait-ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.



CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our anxieties, God will meet us and renew us. Together let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Grace Notes

Part of confession is naming our mistakes and shortcomings. Another part is naming those things God hopes for us. In this prayer, the liturgist names what is asked of us in our journey on the Christian path, and in response we acknowledge that we fall short of those expectations.

Confession is not an exercise in guilt. In fact, it is exactly the opposite. We confess not to feel guilty but to make room in our lives and our hearts to feel and know the love and forgiveness of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. (in unison)

God of Mercy and Grace,
you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth
to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us:

Yet we maintain walls that separate and isolate.

You give us the ministry of reconciliation:

Yet we nurse our wounds and withhold mercy and forgiveness.

You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John
on the mountain of Transfiguration:

Yet we deny the wonders you have worked in our own lives.

You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth:

Yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us.

You bless our lives with boundless love:

**Yet we fail to witness to that love,
and so keep others from knowing you.**

Forgive our selfishness, we pray.

**Transform us by your Spirit and your Word
into that which pleases you,
the image of Christ. Amen.**

Silence is kept

SUNG RESPONSE *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, lis-ten to your chil - dren pray - ing.

Lord, send your Spir it in this place. Lord, listen to your chil-dren

pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Grace Notes

Mindful of personal preferences and safety, please offer signs of peace to those around you.

The Transfiguration of Jesus appears in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) as well as the Second Epistle of Peter.

In Greek the word for transfiguration is metamorphosis.

It is unusual but not unheard of for hymns to be unrhymed as this one is. The author wrote the text to be a meditative prayer rooted in many scriptures with the theme and motif of light.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ which passes all understanding be with you all.

And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 17:1-8

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain. He was transformed in front of them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light.

Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus. Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, "Lord, it's good that we're here. If you want, I'll make three shrines: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, look, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!" Hearing this, the disciples fell on their faces, filled with awe.

But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

SERMON

"Reiterated Love"

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

HOUSTON

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Grace Notes

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the
 light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our World Belongs to God

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is pneumatology (literally “spirit” or “breath” words). In this confession, the work of the spirit as a force of reconciliation and transformation is celebrated.

The Confession of 1967 says, in part, “God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in humanity.”

**Jesus stays with us in the Spirit,
 who renews our hearts,
 moves us to faith,
 leads us in the truth,
 stands by us in our need,
 and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant.**

**The Spirit's gifts are here to stay
 in rich variety—fitting responses to timely needs.**

**We thankfully see each other
 as gifted members of the fellowship
 which delights in the creative Spirit's work.**

**He gives more than enough to each believer
 for God's praise and our neighbor's welfare.**

OFFERING

Grace Notes

Ed Lojeski was known as one of the finest choral arrangers/directors of the last half century.

During his illustrious career he served as vocal coach and/or piano accompanist to Elvis Presley, Robert Goulet, Johnny Mathis, and Cyd Charisse. He was a musical consultant on movies such as *Where the Boys Are*, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, and *Hello Dolly*.

Lojeski, who died in 2020, began his career as part of the Doodletown Pipers, an easy listening vocal group in the 1960's and 70's.

Elders will be in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) following worship if you would like to learn more about WHPC or if you are ready to join as part of the congregation.

OFFERTORY

“Just a Closer Walk With Thee” Saxophonist Dr. Barry McVinny

arr. Ed Lojeski

*I am weak but Thou art strong.
Jesus, keep me from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk, close to thee.*

*Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, Dear Lord, none but Thee.*

(Refrain)

*Just a closer walk with Thee,
Jesus grant my humble plea!
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, Dear Lord, let it be.*

*When the journey here is o're
Time for me will be no more.
Guide me to Thy distant shore.
To Thy shore, of Dear Lord, to Thy shore.*

Refrain

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

+PARTING HYMN #522 “Lord, When I Came Into This Life” LAND OF REST

+CHARGE AND BENEDECTION

+POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

TODAY'S MUSIC is made possible by Charlotte and Charlie Frith in honor of their grandchildren, Townley Frith and Fletcher Hope.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY Pastor Robert Lowry, Music Director David Austin, Liturgist H.K. Stewart, Guest Musician Barry McVinney, and the Westover Hills Chancel Choir.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MIDWEEK MANNA BIBLE STUDY will not meet this week. We will resume our study of Romans on Wednesday March 1 in the New Chapel and on zoom at 12:05.

NEW YEAR NEW YOU YOGA meets Thursdays in the New Chapel at 10am. This low-impact exercise is for all-comers and is a great way to keep in shape and stay flexible.

PASTOR ROBERT IS LEADING the Second Presbyterian 1st and 3rd Monday book group tomorrow. The study book is Eugene Peterson's "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction." For more information contact Pastor Robert.

PASTOR ROBERT WILL be out of the office Tuesday-Friday to attend the final class in his Master of Arts in Public Theology degree program at Union Presbyterian Seminary-Richmond. Other than class sessions, he is available by phone or email during the week.

BRIDGE BUILDERS SPRING STUDY will consider two books this spring: *The Conversation: How Seeking and Speaking the Truth about Racism Can Radically Transform Individuals and Organizations*, by Robert Livingston. Also, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard to Talk About Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo. Both books delve into the deepest feelings one might have, or experienced, about racism. BBRG will meet in person, Tuesday March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 6:30-8:30pm, in the New Chapel at WHPC (off Pine Valley and South Road) and will offer the zoom option. Please register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdeioqjIqHtKDjbjBAvL62kHMkO4cWMZ3>.

BLANKET MAKING in the gathering area on Sunday February 26th, from 12:00-2:00pm. Snacks will be provided and everyone is invited.

YOURE INVITED Come to the Westover Hills Preschool Chili Supper and Silent Auction on Friday, March 3rd, in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30-7:30pm. Enjoy three kinds of chili (traditional, vegetarian, white chicken) and hot dogs, and then bid on some of the wonderful silent auction items. Adults \$15, children over 2 years old \$5. Come Join the fun!

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY the Mission and Advocacy Committee is asking the Westover Hills community to purchase underwear for the Clothes Closet at the Stew Pot. They are in need of both men's and women's underwear. Please shop for medium and large sizes in boxers, briefs, and tee shirts for men and for women, medium and large underpants. Blankets are also always welcome.

UPDATES TO THE PRAYER LIST should be sent to the office and copied to Liz Branch and Robert.

CALENDAR UPDATES AND SESSION DOCUMENTS should be sent to the office and copied to Candice Misenheimer.

FOLLOW US on Instagram @westoverhillspc or on Twitter @ChurchWestover

PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS Vivianna McAtee; Andrea Campbell; Pam and Bill Mattes (former frequent visitors at WHPC, living in Poolesville, MD- Pam, broken wrist and tibia); Jane Estes (recovery from long haul Covid and toxic mold healing and remediation of their home); Betty Glenn (recovering at home); Mary Chrisman (broken arm); Susan Mauney (health issues); Jonathon Simpson (friend of Ann Patterson, awaiting kidney transplant); Christine and the people of Ukraine (Ukraine collaborator with the WHPC PW on 2013 water project, Christine has moved to Hungary for safety); Ljubica and Stanislav Radovic (volleyball coach Tanja Eckart's parents, who live in Croatia- anxiety over nearby war); Barry Wood (grandfather of Sydney- blood infection and upcoming heart surgery); Earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria; TLC (at home) members; Church staff: Pastor Robert, Ulysses, David, Tammy, Sydney and Shawn; Preschool kids, families & staff.

DEACONS FOR FEBRUARY are Alice Ahart and Nancy Blackstone

CALENDAR

The church calendar is available on the website

(scan QR code to be directed to our website)



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6400 RICHARD B HARDIE DRIVE

LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207

501-663-6383