



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
February 27, 2022
The Transfiguration of the Lord

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus (Hymn 306)

arr. Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

As God spoke, calling light out of darkness, God's glory shines in the face of Jesus Christ. The voice of God thunders like a mighty storm. Out of the cloud, God speaks; this is my beloved Son; listen to him. Let us worship with open ears, hearts, and minds!

*HYMN No. 420 (V.1-5)

God of Grace and God of Glory

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.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

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.

Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christlike graces,
Pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!

Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Thy salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving Thee whom we adore,
Serving Thee whom we adore.

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all glory, beauty, and grace, we have tried to hide from you – to hide our faces, to hide our sin – yet you have never hidden your love for us. We have tried to search for you – in temples, in clouds, on mountaintops – yet you have already revealed yourself to us in the face of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, and transfigure us so that our lives may shine with your glory, beauty, and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Prayer

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Do not be afraid. God's forgiveness shines into the world. 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. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:28-36

SERMON

Laura Choi

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE 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. Please make your financial gifts by leaving your offering in the plate in the rear of the sanctuary, online, or through the mail.

DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

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 at work in us and what we offer the world in Jesus' name.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Revealing God, you bless us with your presence and wisdom, and we marvel at the wonders of your love. You created a beautiful world that reveals your majesty. You sent your Son to show us how to live with compassion. Your Holy Spirit guides us on our way. Thank you for opening our eyes to your presence each day. Help us to recognize you not only in mountaintop experiences, but also in everyday tasks and in times of great challenge. God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Loving God, much in this world needs the transformation only you can provide. Where there is violence, bring calm; where there is poverty, send sustenance; where there is confusion, bring wisdom; where minds and hearts are troubled, bring comfort; where pain is crippling, grant release. Move our selfish hearts to share resources so no one is in need; and call the powerful to act with justice. Give us all the will to work for the wellbeing of the earth and to live with respect for the fragile balances within your creation. Hear us now in this time of silence as we raise to you the names and situations on our hearts this day.

Silence

Hear the cries of all who suffer and bring each one hope of new life with you. God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we pray for your church around the world and for our congregation. Give your people the energy to shine wherever there is despair or discouragement. Bless this congregation with wisdom and vision, as we face the changes in the world cause by the pandemic. Renew our imagination and commitment to develop new forms of ministry and mission for the days ahead. Gather us as a people again after months of distancing, and inspire us with greater delight in your mystery, and greater joy in seeking your presence. God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We ask these things through Christ Jesus, who revealed your will to us through your revolutionary love, and taught us to pray these words together:

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.

*HYMN 73 (V.1-3)

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

Swiftly pass the clouds of glory,
Heaven's voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish;
Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent,
Turning from the summit's rise
Downward toward the shadowed valley
Where the Lord has fixed His eyes.

Glimpsed and gone the revelation,
They shall gain and keep its truth,
Not by building on the mountain
Any shrine or sacred booth,
But by following the Savior
Through the valley to the cross
And by testing faith's resilience
Through betrayal, pain, and loss.

Lord, transfigure our perception
With the purest light that shines,
And recast our life's intentions
To the shape of Your designs,
Till we seek no other glory
Than what lies past Calvary's hill
And our living and our dying
And our rising by Your will.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

Now go to live and share the good news: The Lord of life and light is with us!
And may the face of the Risen Christ shine upon you – God's beloved – and give you peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus (Hymn 306)

arr. Callahan

Today we welcome to the pulpit Laura Choi. Laura is a seminary student, Presbyterian, a Chinese American, a mom of 3, an advocate for LGBTQ+ youth, a school board member and educator, and spouse to Rev. Stephen Choi who is pastor at Stewartville Presbyterian Church in Warren County NJ.

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Worship Leaders

Laura Choi, Guest Preacher

Bill Bartlett, Worship Leader

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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Luke 9:28-36

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 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. 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. 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!" 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.