



# First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*"No matter who you are,  
or where you are  
on life's journey,  
you are welcome here."*

Senior Minister  
Rev. Tim Vander Haar

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**

1201 Jefferson Street  
Muskegon, Michigan 49441  
231-726-3254

[www.fccmuskegon.org](http://www.fccmuskegon.org)

**TRANSFIGURATION  
FEBRUARY 11, 2024**

**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

*Sharing the Peace of Christ*

The glory of the Lord shines forth.

**Come, let us adore him!**

**PRELUDE**

*Aria*, by Michael Burkhardt

**GATHERING PRAYER**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O God, before Jesus went to the cross  
you revealed his glory upon a holy mountain.**

**Grant that we, in seeing by faith  
the light of his face,**

**may find strength to walk the path you set before us.**

**Change us into his likeness,  
that the glory of your love may shine through us.**

**Grant this through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## OPENING HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: We have come at Christ's own bidding, Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, Strength-ened by this glimpse of glory, to this high and holy place, Where we wait with splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word, Mo-ses and E-fear-ful lest our faith de-cline, We, like Pe-ter, hope and long-ing for some to-ken of God's grace. li-jah mar-vel as the heav-enly voice is heard. find it tempt-ing to re-main and build a shrine. Here we pray for new as-sur-ance that our faith is Eyes and hearts be-hold with won-der how the Law and But true wor-ship gives us cour-age to pro-claim what not in vain, search-ing like those first dis-ci-ples Proph-ets meet: Christ with gar-ments drenched in bright-ness, we pro-fess, That our dai-ly lives may prove us for a sign both clear and plain. stands trans-fig-ured and com-plete. peo-ple of the God we bless.

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain, by Carl Schalk*

1. Jesus, take us to the mountain  
Where, with Peter, James and John,  
We are dazzled by Your glory,  
Light as blinding as the sun.  
There prepare us for the night  
By the vision of that sight.
2. What do you want us to see there  
That Your close companions saw?  
Your divinity revealed there  
Fills us with the self-same awe.  
Clothed in flesh like ours You go,  
Matched to meet our deadliest foe.
3. What do You want us to hear there  
That Your dear disciples heard?  
Once again the voice from heaven  
Says of the incarnate Word:  
"Listen, listen ev'ryone;  
This is My beloved Son!"
4. Take us to that other mountain  
Where we see You glorified.  
Where You shouted, "It is finished!"  
Where for all the world You died.  
Hear the stunned centurion:  
"Truly this was God's own Son!"
5. We who have beheld Your glory,  
Risen and ascended Lord,  
Cannot help but tell the story,  
All that we have seen and heard,  
Say with Peter, James, and John:  
"You are God's beloved Son!"

Text © Jaroslav J. Vajda, Arrangement © 1994 MorningStar Music Publishers

## MESSAGE

ARE WE DELUSIONAL?

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

Christ whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ the true and  
Dark and cheer - less is the morn un - ac - com - pa -  
Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of

on - ly Light, Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise,  
nied by Thee; joy - less is the day's re - turn,  
sin and grief; fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine,

tri - umph o'er the shade of night; Day - spring from on  
till Thy mer - cy's beams I see, till they in - ward  
scat - ter all my un - be - lief; more and more Thy -

high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.  
light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*. . . ending with 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.**

## **OFFERTORY REFLECTION**

### **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*Heavenly Light, by Alexander Kopylov*

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine,  
O Light Divine! May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light!  
Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation!  
All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar!  
Oh, shine from above, Divine Light of love!  
Show us the way unto our God, we pray!  
Thou our beacon and guide shalt be!  
Light Divine, we praise Thee!

English text by Alice Mattullath, Arranged by Peter J. Wilhousky  
© 1937 by Carl Fischer, Inc. New York

## **DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father (*Creator*), Son (*Christ*), and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## CLOSING HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair*

O won - drous sight, O vi - sion fair  
From age to age the tale de - clare,  
With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray,

of glo - ry that the church shall share,  
how with the three di - ci - ples there,  
Christ deigns to man - i - fest to - day

Which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,  
Where Mo - ses and E - li - jah meet,  
What glo - ry shall be theirs be - yond,

where bright - er than the sun, Christ glows!  
they with the Christ God's fu - ture greet.  
who live with - in God's lov - ing bond.

# **BLESSING AND SENDING**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Psalm XIX, by Benedetto Marcello*

## **Today's Service**

Rev. Tim Vander Haar  
Dr. Michael Match  
John Mattson  
The Motet Choir  
Rev. Brewster Willcox  
Blake Filius

Pastor  
Music Director  
Organist  
Song Leaders  
Liturgist/Prayers of the People  
Audio and Video

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*A white carnation is in memory of Peggy Whitlock who passed away on February 7, 2024. A service will be held in Kalamazoo at a date to be determined. Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with John and family.*

*Westshore GSA Youth Group will be meeting on Monday, from 7 to 8 pm.*

*Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters O through S please bring cookies or treats during the month of February. Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated as are homemade cookies or bars.*

*Come One! Come All to the "Roamin in the Gloamin" St.Patrick's Day Talent Show on March 17 in the Fellowship Hall following worship service. Interested in sharing a talent (ex. Singers, dancers, poetry readers, Irish Limericks or jokes (clean), acrobats, musicians, etc.) with us? If so please fill out a Talent Show Registration Form (minors welcome with parent permission), @ Welcome Center and return form by March 10. All those who want to attend and join in the fun please sign the attendance sheet @ welcome Center before March 10 so we can make sure we have enough refreshments. Donations to cover the cost of refreshments are welcome. Please contact Sue Vander Haar with questions. 231-557-7714-Congregational Life Dept.*

*Every communion Sunday we ask that you consider bringing in even one canned good or non-perishable food item and place it in the bushel basket in the Narthex. This will go to Food Pantry clients. Many thanks!*

*Souper Bowl Sunday after Church today if you are able to join us. Price of admission is a canned good or goods. Sponsored by Congregational Life.*

*Prayer in the Spirit of Taizé: Please join us Thursday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary for a half hour of prayerful contemplation and inspiring music in a peaceful atmosphere.*

## **OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY**

*"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love." Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21*