

Transfiguration of Our Lord

March 2, 2025

Chaos and Mystery



Ghost-like prophets from generations past, a face suddenly transformed, dazzling clothes, frightening fog, and a mysterious voice: today's gospel text might sound like the beginning of a strange science fiction novel. Indeed, this passage has mystified theologians, biblical scholars,

preachers, and followers of Jesus for centuries. What do we make of such an unusual tale?

Perhaps the chaos and mystery are part of the point: after all, who can fully describe an encounter with the Divine? How can we even begin to understand the glory of God? If this text leaves us speechless, we are in good company with God-seekers across the ages. Some experiences simply defy tidy explanations, and the transfiguration is one of them.

This story offers us glimpses of some of the most profound mysteries of our faith. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, the one sent and affirmed by God. Jesus is the glory of God revealed among us. In him, we find our past, present, and future all wrapped up into one. Even the most devout disciples might find themselves confounded by these revelations. Perhaps we are given these truths only in glimpses to spark our curiosity and wonder, and to let the gift of faith reveal their meaning.

This story also assures us that although Jesus shines with God's glory on the mountaintop, he is sent back into the day-to-day world to carry on the work of life-saving mercy, healing, and justice. Like Peter, James, and John, we might encounter God on the mountaintops of life and be tempted to set up camp there. But God is the one who leaves the mountain for the often-unglamorous work of serving others. We trust that here, too, God is with us—not just on the mountaintops but in the valleys and everywhere in between, transforming us for the work of discipleship here and now in the ordinariness of life.

Presiding Minister: Rev. Randy Marburger

Worship Leader: Dr. Wendy S. Farone, Vicar

Assisting Minister: Loran Bohman

Lector: Sandy Shaw

Organist: Drew Pogyor

Altar Care: Loran Bohman

Altar Flowers: given by the Haliko Family in Honor of the 45th wedding anniversary for Tom & Judy Haliko.

The Sanctuary Light: is given to the Glory of God.

The Columbarium Light: is given to the Glory of God.

Hymns for Sunday

Entrance Hymn **ELW 317 Jesus on the Mountain Peak**

Hymn of the day **ELW 671 Shine, Jesus, Shine**

Communion Hymns **ELW 306 Come, Beloved of the Maker**
ELW 838 Beautiful Savior

Sending Hymn **ELW 318 Alleluia, Song of Gladness**

Communion- If you need assistance or are unable to come to the communion rail, you can either stand at the step or stay in your seat and Pastor will come to you. If you are unable to receive either the consecrated bread or wine, receiving either one is acceptable.

Membership- There are many ways to be connected with our congregation. Everyone is welcome to participate in any and all congregation activities; and anyone baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is welcome to Holy Communion. We welcome your request for membership.

Ash and Dash on March 5th

- Will occur this year in the front parking lot from 6-9 am.
- Walk-in Ashes throughout the day.
- 7:00 pm Worship service with ashes/Holy Communion

Lent Services on March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9

- Lenten Light Dinner 5:30-6:45 pm
- Lenten Service 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Service, April 17, 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service, April 18, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, Service, April 20, 10:00 am

Mardi Gras Pancake and Sausage Celebration on Saturday March 1st from 4:30 – 7 pm. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Its FREE! No take out. There will be some crafts, and games planned. We will also be kicking off our Lenten project for Mission Agape then. All are welcome!

Our Faith Quilters Quilting Day is Saturday March 15th from 9am to 2pm. All are welcome! This is the day where we work on several quilts. No experience necessary. Bring a cover dish for lunch. There will be a sign up in the Narthex later in February.

Hope Ministries of Mckeesport (former location of Intersection) will be offering free Tuesday lunch 11 – noon, bible study Thursday 3:30-4:15pm and free Thursday dinner 4:15-5:15 pm. Food Pantry Distribution 2nd Thursday of the month 10 am – noon. Rent & Utility Assistance Program.

Easter Flower Orders are due by March 18th. See insert in bulletin. Turn in forms to the office bin on Apryle's desk. Additional order forms can also be found in the narthex.

Lost and Found – We have several items located on the window shelf outside of the office: earrings, glove, key, pill box etc. Please stop by and check it out if you are missing one of these items.

Bible Storytelling News

BS continues the study of St Luke on Tuesdays. This week we will review the various themes of St Luke's Gospel. Who was his audience when he wrote the Gospel and the Book of Acts? How do his words speak to us today? Please join us at 10:00 a.m., March 4th, for the "sweet taste of learning," lively discussion, fellowship, and Daisy's famous cinnamon rolls!