**St. John United Church of Christ**

***“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”***

February 14, 2021 Transfiguration Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship (618) 877-6060

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6)

PRELUDE *I Love to Tell the Story*  Fischer

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

 Adapted from *“Jesus on the Mountain Peak”*

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Jesus on the mountain peak stands alone in glory blazing;

***Let us, if we dare to speak, join the saints and angels in praising: Hallelujah!***

Trembling at his feet, we saw Moses and Elijah speaking,

***All the prophets and the law, shout through them their joyful greeting: Hallelujah!***

Swift the cloud of glory came, God proclaiming, in its thunder,

***Jesus as the Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder: Hallelujah!***

Let us pray together.

***O God, you declare Jesus to be your beloved Son, and we join the Law and Prophets before him in worship. He, with you and the Spirit, is first and last and One True God. With all creation, we come to adore you and lift our Hallelujah’s on high. Amen.***

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

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***We have come at Christ’s own bidding to this high and holy place,***

***where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God’s grace.***

***Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain, searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.***

***Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word.***

***Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.***

***Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet:***

***Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.***

***Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline,***

***we, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine. But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,***

***that our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.***

RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 Adapted from Colossians 1:15-20

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;

 ***For in Christ all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,***

Whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities—

 ***All things were created through Christ and for Christ.***

Christ is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together.

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 ***Christ is the head of the body, the church;***

Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything Christ might be preeminent.

 ***For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,***

And through Christ all things are reconciled to God, whether on earth or in heaven,

 **Making peace by the blood of Christ’s cross.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 Kings 2:1-12

SOLO *The Swan* Saint-Saens

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 9:2-9

REFLECTION Reflections on *“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”*

VALENTINE’S REMEMBERED Slide Show of Our Pictures

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, LORD’S PRAYER & RESPONSE

 ***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.***

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION & BLESSING

 ***We worship you, O God, in the ordinary times of our lives when we do what you ask of us, when we serve as faithful, hope proclaiming disciples. Bless all our gifts of time, talent, and treasure for your good purposes. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Fairest Lord Jesus”***  Verses 1, 3 & 4

***Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son,***

***thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown!***

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***Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host:***

***Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.***

***Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of man!***

***Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be thine!***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Paean ExultantSmith

Welcome to worship. In The Message Bible version, 1 Corinthians 13 says: Love never gives up…trusts God always, always looks for the best…Love never dies.” Let us worship the God of Eternal Love.

The bulletins are given in memory of the February 20th birthday of **Bill Gaines** and in honor of the February 17th birthday of **Karen Smart** by Diane Peach.

If you would like to place flowers in the background of Zoom worship, and pick them up Monday, please call Donna Streid at 877-7767. If you would like to sponsor the bulletins please call the church office at 877-6060. The next available date is February 28.

Our February Mission of the Month is financial donations to be divided between our **Brotherhood and Evening Guild**. Each of these organizations contribute gifts of time, talent, and treasure to the work of the church and to missions. Due to Covid19, though, they have not been able to hold their primary fundraisers. Our Mission of the Month gifts will give them the opportunity to continue serving in the ways they choose. Please clearly mark your gifts for Mission of the Month.

Our **Ash Wednesday** service will be held on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. this Wednesday, February 17. Please use the Meeting ID: **842 0206 5327** and Passcode: **384480.** Also, use this same ID and Passcode the following **Wednesdays of Lent** at noon to Zoom in for a 15 minute devotional service. It will be a simple service of reading with scripture and prayer. Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00 p.m. on April 1.

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**THIS WEEK**

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Zoom Bible Study, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Zoom Ash Wednesday Service

 842 0206 5327 384480

Sunday: Herald Deadline

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Souper Bowl of Caring last Sunday. So far $200 has been collected to send to Community Care.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Hospitalized**

Hilde Few hopefully from Anderson to Meridian Village Rehab.

Mary Lee Krohne went from Barnes to Mercy Rehab. in Chesterfield.

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Loretta Cook, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, and Nadine Ryan.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Randy Fischer, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Norman

Hente, Bill McAmish, Billie Meyer, Cliff Robertson, Valara Schorfheide, Merle Rose, June Stille, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

Waterloo Zion UCC St. Joe, Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole; Wood River St. John UCC, Rev. Dwayne (Donna) Dollgener, Supply Pastor; Retired Pastor Rev. Fred (Shirley) Wehrenberg.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**2 Kings 2:1-12**

2 Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. 3The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

4Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. 5The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

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6Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself

live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. 7Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” 10He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” 11As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. 12Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

**Mark 9:2-9**

2Six 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, 3and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5Then 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.” 6He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” 8Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

9As 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.