



Compassionate
Community

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.



For Children: Please feel free to attend services with your children. For the safety of the children, staff and volunteers ERUCC will not be providing childcare during services until further notice. Your children are welcome to bring their own quiet activities, no materials will be provided. Please take ALL personal items with you after the service.

We have removed all items from the pew racks for your safety. Music selections will be provided within this bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, Thank you.

We ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org.

Donate online by scanning this code:

or you may use our new texting donation system. Send a donation amount to 301-804-2933 . You will receive a text back within minutes with a link. Click the secure link and provide your method of payment and a receipt will be sent to you! Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.



Thank you.



Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor (bkdaniel@erucc.org)

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)

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Alison E. Shafer, Music Director • Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director

Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

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EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

February 14, 2021

Transfiguration Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Gathering in this sacred place
we anticipate new wonders each week.

**Wherever two or three are gathered to worship,
a holy spirit is present.**

Open our eyes to witness
the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed,
even this day, even in this place.

**We will want to linger and camp in this sanctuary
but when we leave today may our hearts be open
to all the wonders of God's beautiful world.**

*Opening Prayer

**O Holy One,
on mountaintops and valley floors
you reveal to us the light of your love.**

**Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory
of the divine presence.**

With each encounter we are changed and transformed.

Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit.

Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.

**May we walk among our siblings and friends as a blessing,
bearing light into dark places,**

**hope to displace despair,
and love that casts out hate.**

**Our world is hurting
and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely.**

**Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying,
... "listen to my Child, the Beloved!" Amen.**

*Opening Hymn *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

182,

tune- *HYMN TO JOY*

**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.**

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Forgive us, God, when we linger too long by the waters,
and on the mountain tops,
enthralled with the glory that flows from you.
When we fail to listen to your voice, leading and guiding us,
shake us from our contentment
and send us forward endowed with your power.

Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

The God of Elijah, the God of Moses and the God of Jesus
desires mercy more than sacrifice
and a contrite heart rather than burnt offerings.
Love God and do the right thing
and forgiveness shall be your friend
and mercy your true companion.

Amen.

Thought For the Day

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, for ever. Amen.**

The Scripture

1 John 4:7-19

Mark 9:2-9

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Norm Ross

Pastoral Prayer

Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service

Anthem *Love In Any Language*

*- J. Mohr/J. Mays, arr. J. Higgins
ERUCC Singers*

***Closing Hymn** *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

- G. Kendrick

**Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me**

**Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness**

**Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me**

**Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me**

**Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light**

***Benediction**

Now may the God who said,
“Let light shine out of darkness”
and has shone in our hearts,
give us light to bear to the world
that all may see and know that God is love.

Amen.

***Postlude**



Please welcome Norm Ross, our guest preacher today. Norm was raised in both Silver Spring, MD and on an island off the coast of Maine, where he still owns properties. He was raised and active in the Episcopal Church. Professionally, for over 35 years, he served as a director of camps, conference and retreat centers for a variety of Christian faith-based churches and judicatories. He was also privileged to provide consulting services to a wide range of not-for-profit organizations in the areas of leadership, fiscal accountability & enhancement, programming, planning, operations, marketing, personnel, recruitment, supervision and training, policy and procedure development, and facility development. This afforded him the opportunity to live and travel through our country and abroad.

Norm's late wife (Melissa) was from the Frederick area, and after her passing and his retirement, he felt comfortable staying in Frederick. Norm currently works part time at Frederick Health Hospital in patient care. Norm also meets with couples to plan, write and officiate their weddings. Over the years he has joyfully married about 1,800 people.

Norm became active with ERUCC last year, just prior the pandemic, as a part of his desire to find and join a new church home and community. He appreciates the engaging and welcoming congregation, clergy, mission and ministries, preaching, worship styles, and music.

Worship Notes: Witness to Wonders: Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday, was written by the Rev. Madison Shockley, pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, CA and a member of the board of directors of ProgressiveChristianity.org.



Every Sunday at 10:30

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bziah0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w

You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of Robbie Johnson by the Schmid family.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of AE3 Christopher W. Maddock, USN, grandson of Tom and Evie Frazier.

Worship Next Week: [Ctrl + Click HERE to join worship Sunday 10:30 a.m.](#)

February 21

First Sunday in Lent

During the Season of Lent, we reflect on what it means to journey through life as God leads us. The first lesson this morning, Genesis 9: 8-17, is the first description of a covenant in the Bible. God promises Noah never again to destroy the earth. After a period of preparation and testing in the wilderness, Mark 1: 9-15, Jesus begins his ministry, proclaiming the good news that God's reign is breaking into the world in a new way.

TRANSFIGURATION

February 14, 2021

Mark 9:2-9

Compassionate Community Racial Justice Sunday Science and Technology Sunday

By a coincidence of the calendar (or perhaps a “God-incidence” of the calendar) today sees the collision of several different religious and secular observances. Today is Transfiguration Sunday, observed throughout Christendom as the day that the disciples saw Jesus for the first time as a truly divine being. In the United Church of Christ, we designate this Sunday as both Racial Justice Sunday and Science and Technology Sunday. And this also happens to be what has become the secular holiday of St. Valentine’s Day.

Observing so many different, and seemingly contradictory, holidays and designations on the same day can seem confusing. It may seem as if they are in competition with each other, and that if we lift up one, then another may fall by the side.

We can hold all of these together, however, as we celebrate this day as what it means to be progressive Christians. **“Progressive Christianity is characterized by a willingness to question tradition, acceptance of human diversity, a strong emphasis on social justice and care for the poor and the oppressed, and environmental stewardship of the earth. Progressive Christians have a deep belief in the centrality of the instruction to “love one another” (John 15:17) within the teachings of Jesus Christ. This leads to a focus on promoting values such as compassion, justice, mercy, and tolerance, often through political activism.”* *Wikipedia.

When we recall the progressive expression of our faith, it takes away the need for competition and a sense of scarcity or anxiety. We remember that in Christ, we are united in love and acceptance. We give thanks that our tent is big enough and wide enough to hold the wonder of miracle, the persistent call to social justice, the yearning for knowledge, and even the sentimentality of a greeting-card holiday.

However you observe this day, give thanks that you do it in company with a great cloud of witnesses who join you in following the same Christ in many ways.



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