

Beaches Presbyterian Church

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February 27th 2022

Transfiguration Sunday

ENJOYING GOD, WALKING JESUS' WAY

WE ARE WELCOMED IN GOD'S NAME

Introit: "Solitude" for solo bass by Julian Anderson-Bowes. It celebrates the return of spring with natural and bass sounds. (Recorded February 2021; released on Bandcamp, February 2022).

Welcome:

Erin Scisizzi

We acknowledge that those who worship, study and play on these lands are beneficiaries of generations of stewards of the land on which we live, and who have been living on this part of Turtle Island for thousands of years. We especially remember the families and friends of those found in unmarked graves and grieve their loss.

Hymn: Jesus on the Mountain Peak

BOP 185

Words: Brian A. Wren (born 1936)

Music: Cyril V. Taylor (1907-1991)

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Link to Soundcloud: https://soundcloud.com/user-229168019/185-jesus-on-the-mountain-peak_v1

1. Jesus on the mountain peak stands alone in glory blazing;
let us, if we dare to speak, join the saints and angels praising:
hallelujah.
2. Trembling, at his feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the law shout through them their joyful greeting:
hallelujah.
3. Swift the cloud of glory came, God proclaiming, in its thunder,
Jesus as the Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder:
hallelujah.
4. This is God's beloved Son! Law and prophets sing before him,
first and last and only one. All creation shall adore him:
hallelujah.

Call to Worship: Katherine McCloskey and Cole Kim

K: Our God is mighty and merciful, ruling with kindness over all the earth;

C: Let all people praise God's holy name.

K: The Lord loves justice and creates equity for all God's people;

C: We come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing songs of joyful praise;

K: For the Christ of glory shines in this place;

C: The Holy Spirit meets us here, and so we come to worship.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Children's time

Rosemary Brett-Horn

Gathering Prayer Confession

God of grace and God of glory, you reveal your presence to the world in radiant glory and gentle whispers, on mountain tops and lowly plains, in classrooms and hospital beds, in homes and churches, in the silence of nature and the sounds of cities. Yours is the presence that pushes past our fears, yours is the touch that transforms our doubts. We come before you to celebrate your goodness, to focus on your light, and offer you all praise, and yet we confess all that keeps us from sharing that goodness. We are distracted by the desire to have more than we need. We focus on our own disappointments rather than trust the future you create. We feel discouraged by the pandemic and fail to claim the hope you hold out to us in Christ. Listen now as we offer to you the places in our relationships that most need healing.

Hear our silent prayers...

Forgive us. Transfigure us by your grace, and shape us into disciples who follow Christ's leading each day. We ask these things in the strong and gentle name of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

AMEN

The Lord's Prayer (Spoken)

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be Your Name,

Your Kingdom come,

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

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.

WE HEAR THE WORD

History/Law/Prophecy: Exodus 34: 29-35
(NRSV)

Heather Crisp

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him.

But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them.

Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,

the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Writings: Psalm 99
(NRSV)

Erin Scisizzi

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The Lord is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name.
Holy is he!

Mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the Lord our God;
worship at his footstool.
Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.

He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they kept his decrees,
and the statutes that he gave them.

O Lord our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

Extol the Lord our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the Lord our God is holy.

Hymn: All creatures of our God and King

BOP 433

Words: based on Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), Canticum of the Sun, translated by William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.

Music: Auserlesene Katholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623; harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

Dance courtesy of Pat Fraser. Choreography and dancing by Lyla Jean Bowman.

Link to Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-229168019/433-all-creatures-of-our-god-and-king>

1. All creatures of our God and King lift up your voice and with us sing;
sing praises, hallelujah!
O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam,
sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
2. Wild rushing wind, unbounded, strong, high clouds that sail in heaven along:
sing praises, hallelujah!
New rising dawn in praise rejoice, kind lights of evening, find a voice:
sing praises...
3. Deep flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your God to hear:
sing praises, hallelujah!
Fierce fire, so masterful and bright,
pierce now the dark with heat and light:
sing praises...
4. Dear mother earth, who day by day brings forth your blessings on our way:
sing praises, hallelujah!

All flowers and fruit that in you grow, let them God's glory also show:
sing praises...

5. Let every one of tender heart, forgiving others, take their part:
sing praises, hallelujah!

All who long pain and sorrow bear, give God your burdens and your care:
sing praises....

6. Let all things their Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness:
sing praises, hallelujah!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:
sing praises...

Gospel: John 9:1-25

Pat Fraser

As Jesus walked along, He saw someone who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus, 'Rabbi, was it this individual's sin that caused the blindness, or that of the parents'?'

'Neither,' said Jesus. 'It wasn't because of anyone's sin - not this person's, nor the parents'. Rather, it was to let God's works shine forth in this person. We must do the deeds of the One Who sent Me while it is day - for night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.'

With that, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with His saliva and smeared the blind one's eyes with the mud. Then Jesus said, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' ('Siloam' means 'sent'). So the person went off to wash and came back able to see.

Neighbours and those who had been accustomed to seeing the blind beggar began to ask, 'Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?' Some said yes, others said no - the one who had been healed simply looked like the beggar. But the individual in question said, 'No, it was me.'

The people then asked, 'Then how were your eyes opened?'

The answer came, 'The One they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash. When I went and washed, I was able to see.'

'Where is Jesus?' they asked. The person replied, 'I have no idea.'

They took the one who had been born blind to the Pharisees. It had been on a Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud paste and opened this one's eyes. The Pharisees asked how the individual could see. They were told, 'Jesus put mud on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see.'

This prompted some Pharisees to say, 'This Jesus cannot be from God, because He doesn't keep the Sabbath.' Others argued, 'But how could a sinner perform signs like these'? They were sharply divided. Then they addressed the blind person again, 'Since it was your eyes He opened, what do you have to say about this Jesus'? 'He's a Prophet', came the reply.

The temple authorities refused to believe that this one had been blind and had begun to see, until they summoned the parents. 'Is this your child?' they asked, 'and if so, do you attest that your child was blind at birth? How do you account for the fact that now your child can see'?

The parents answered, 'We know that this is our child, blind from birth. But how our child can see now, or Who opened those blind eyes, we have no idea. But don't ask us - our child is old enough to speak without us!' The parents answered this way because they were afraid of the Temple authorities, who had already agreed among themselves that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why they said, 'Our child is of age and should be asked directly.'

A second time they summoned the one who had been born blind and said, 'Give God the glory instead, we know that this Jesus is a sinner.'

'I don't know whether He is a sinner or not,' the blind individual answered. 'All I know is that I used to be blind, and now I can see.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel: John 9:26-41

Rev. Katherine McCloskey

The Temple officials persisted, 'Just what did Jesus do to you? How did he open your eyes?' 'I already told you, but you won't listen to me,' came the answer. 'Why do you want to hear it all over again? Don't tell me you want to become disciples of Jesus too!'

They retorted scornfully, 'You're the one who is Jesus' disciple. We're disciples of Moses. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this Jesus comes from.'

The other retorted: 'Well, this is news! You don't know where He comes from, yet He opened my eyes! We know that God doesn't hear sinners, but that if people are devout and obey God's will, God listens to them. It is unheard of that anyone ever gave sight to a person blind from birth. If this One were not from God, He could never have done such a thing!'

'What!' they exclaimed; 'You're steeped in sin from birth and you're giving us lectures?' With that they threw the person out.

When Jesus heard of the expulsion, He sought out the healed one and asked, 'Do you believe in the Chosen One?'

The other answered, 'Who is this One, that I may believe?'

'You're looking at Him,' Jesus replied. 'The Chosen One is speaking to you now.'

The healed one said, 'Yes, I believe,' and worshipped Jesus.

And Jesus said, 'I came into this world to execute justice - to make the sightless see and the seeing blind.'

Some of the Pharisees who were nearby heard this and said, 'You're not calling us blind, are You?'

To which Jesus replied, 'If you were blind there would be no sin in that. But since you say, "We see" your sin remains.'

The Gospel of Christ
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn: God, whose giving knows no ending

BOP 663

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Music: Charles HH Parry. Words used under OneLicense No. A-716050)

Link to Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-229168019/663-god-whose-giving-knows-no-ending-1>

1. God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.
2. Skills and time are ours for pressing towards the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labour, lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.
3. Treasure too you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred.
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Life and Ministry of Beaches Church

Erin Scilizisi

Stewardship Moment:

Stewardship . . . describes the vocation that God intended and intends for the human creature in the midst of God's good creation. Douglas John Hall (1928 –), Professor of Theology, author

Our Annual General Meeting will convene today right after the service. All are welcome.

We will be transitioning to hybrid worship services (online and in the sanctuary) starting on Wednesday March 2nd at 7pm for our Ash Wednesday service. Please spread the word!

Theology on Tap will take a break this Monday, February 28th and resume on March 7th at 7pm over Zoom with a brand new book study. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to MJ or the church office.

If you are interested in participating in the technical aspects of producing our hybrid worship services please contact either Donald Anderson or M.J. Perry.

If you have Prayer requests, they can be sent to bpcprayers@outlook.com, where Rev. Katherine McCloskey will receive them, and they will remain confidential. Your requests will be offered on Wednesday morning during Prayer Group.

Thanks to all who so generously donate to Beaches Presbyterian Church electronically. E-transfer is donate@beacheschurch.org. No security question or answer required.

Benediction and Response

Go out, bringing into the world the love and justice of our Lord. May you always walk upon the Creator's road. And may the Creator bless your footsteps until we meet again.

Sung Blessing: 726 May the God of hope go with us

Words : Alvin Schutmaat (1921-1988); French translation, Andrew Donaldson (born 1951); Music: Hispanic folk song.

Link to SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-229168019/726-may-the-god-of-hope>

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all.
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

¡Dios de la esperanza, danos gozo y paz!
al mundo en crisis, habla tu verdad,
Dios de la justicia, mándanos tu luz,
luz y esperanza en la oscuridad.
Oremos por la paz.
Cantemos de tu amor.
Luchemos por la paz,
fieles a Ti, Señor.

Que le Dieu de l'espérance éclaire nos jours
remplissant nos vies de sa joie, sa paix.
Que le Dieu de la justice et de l'amour
nous montre le chemin de la vérité.
Prions, œuvrons pour la paix;

chantons, le cœur plein de joie;
vivons le royaume de Dieu,
soyons fidèles à sa voix.