



# CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

**Transfiguration of our Lord**

**February 11, 2024**

## **WELCOME & INSTRUCTION**

*Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.*

In the Name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

We give you thanks, holy and gracious God,

for you created the waters of the earth:

wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers.

We praise you for the waters of our community: Stony Run, the Jones Falls River, and the Chesapeake watershed.

You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you.

Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us.

You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.

Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism.

Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING | 2 Kings 2:1-12**

*Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah 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. <sup>3</sup>The 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."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah 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. <sup>5</sup>The 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."

<sup>6</sup>Then 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. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then 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.

<sup>9</sup>When 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." <sup>10</sup>He 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." <sup>11</sup>As 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. <sup>12</sup>Elisha 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.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 50:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the <sup>1</sup> LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun <sup>1</sup> to its setting.

<sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect <sup>1</sup> in its beauty,  
God shines <sup>1</sup> forth in glory. R**

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will <sup>1</sup> not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a <sup>1</sup> raging storm.

<sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth <sup>1</sup> from above  
to witness the judgment <sup>1</sup> of the people.**

<sup>5</sup>"Gather before me my <sup>1</sup> loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed <sup>1</sup> it with sacrifice."

**<sup>6</sup>The heavens declare the rightness <sup>1</sup> of God's cause,  
for it is God <sup>1</sup> who is judge. R**

**GOSPEL READING | Mark 9:2-9**

*Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.*

God is with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>9</sup>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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE |**

*Rev. Jim Muratore*

**BREAKOUT QUESTION**

- What scares you about Jesus? What about Jesus, his words, his actions, makes you think, "that can't be right?"
- Who do you turn to to sort out what all this means? Who are trusted mentors, authors, or guides in the faith and how do they reflect Jesus' identity for you?

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for any who are sick and suffering and for all who seek your comfort. For Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Sharon and Erick, Ron and Beryl, Amanda, Rosha and Ron, Buddy, Luke and Melissa, Jack, Amelia, Matt and Kelly, Zach and Rae, Noah, Landis, Lauren Trish, Roman, Pam, Jim, Charles, Joe, Marie, Katie and for all whom we name now.... Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*Offering may be made electronically on the church's website at [www.churchontheavenuehampden.org](http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org). You can also sign up for automated giving.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Holy One, **for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.**  
**Amen.**

## **COMMUNION**

*The assembly is invited to stand in body or spirit.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

[P] The Lord is here

[A] God's Spir - it is with us

[P] Let us lift up our hearts

[A] We lift them to our God

[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

[A] It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, O God, our Father and Mother  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love,  
that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is  
yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giver of every gift, you nourish us by the gift of your Son in Word and sacrament. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | Saturdays 11am-4pm

Contact Cheryl Conrad if you would be interested in helping run the thrift shop!

### PEERS AS PILLARS | Sundays, 5pm

Peers as pillars is a new support group hosted by St. Luke's for those who lost loved ones to drugs and alcohol.

### ASH WEDNESDAY | February 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm

The season of Lent begins on February 14<sup>th</sup> with the imposition of ashes.

### LENTEN EVENING PRAYER | Thursdays, February 15<sup>th</sup>- March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 pm

The practice of evening prayer returns during the season of Lent. The 30-minute service of prayer and reflection is an additional opportunity to pause for sustenance during the Lenten Fast.

### LENTEN CATECHUMENATE | Thursdays, February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6 pm

The catechumenate is an ancient tradition of preparation for the Sacraments. During this season, we will use the practice of Lectio Divina to guide discernment for individuals seeking to be baptized or affirming their baptism.

### Baltimore Free Farm Seed Swap | Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Begin preparations for your summer garden and bring your seeds to share! The event takes place in the church hall, use the side entrance on Chestnut Avenue.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Maundy Thursday | March 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm  
Good Friday | March 29<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm  
Easter Vigil | March 30<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm  
Easter Sunday | March 31<sup>st</sup> 10:00 am

**THANK YOU** for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry together. You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org>.

### **BENEDICTION**

God is with you! **And also with you!**

God, who gives life to all things  
and frees us from despair,  
bless you with truth and peace.

And may the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** | We are Marching in the Light of God

ELW 866



*Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -*  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



*nyen' kwen - khos'.* *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*  
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO*  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO*  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

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