



Jesus' Transfiguration

MATTHEW 17:1-13

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Transfiguration Sunday
February 15, 2026
Sermon Series: *Glory Revealed*

Opening Meditation

God,
we come to the mountaintop to be covered in your presence.
We are comforted by your holiness and your glow;
we are comforted by the hope of the mountain top,
where you are so close, so accessible,
where there is no doubt of your glory

The mountain top reminds us why we worship you.
We witness your bright power,
and your plan for the nations of the earth.

As we prepare for worship,
God bring us to the mountain top;
bring us to the mountain top
so that we may be inspired to do your work
in the valley below.

Family of God, I welcome you to Grace Church this Transfiguration Sunday where we worship the Holy Triune God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude 'Siciliano for a High Ceremony' – Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
The Light of Christ Enters the Sanctuary

Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: On this Transfiguration Sunday, we gather on the mountaintop with Jesus, wondering what we will encounter.

People: We come to encounter God's glory revealed.

Leader: We witness the revelation of Christ's divinity made plain before us.

People: We come to witness God's glory revealed.

Leader: We remember that God's glory is not about spectacle but truth, not about show but about Love made real among us.

People: We come to remember God's glory revealed.

Leader: We follow Jesus down from the mountaintop into the valleys, as God's glory goes before us and behind us.

People: We come to be sent out to share God's glory revealed. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Opening Hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; (strength and shield) be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; (give to thee) I will ever give to thee.

*Opening Prayer (in unison)

Radiant God, we come to you on the mountaintop to experience your glory. You come to us in the valleys. We meet you in gladness in a place where heaven and earth collide. May our worship of you encourage us on the journey and make us aspire to reflect your kin-dom in the world. Transform us and keep us near to you. Amen.

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

A reading from the Exodus.

Moses enters the cloud of God's glory

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Psalter: Psalm 2

A reading from the psalms

The one begotten of God

Leader: Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and his anointed, saying,

People: "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast their cords from us."

Leader: He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD has them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath and terrify them in his fury, saying,

People: "I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."

Leader: I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have begotten you."

People: Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage

and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Leader: Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth

People: Serve the LORD with fear;

Leader: with trembling kiss his feet, or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.

People: Happy are all who take refuge in him.

Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

A reading from Peter's letter to followers of the Way.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying,

"This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Here ends the reading of the Word.

Gospel Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above the clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render: O help us to see' tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

God our light, make us attentive to your Word as to a lamp shining in a dark place, that seeing your truth we may live faithful lives until that great day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts. Amen.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 17:1-9

A reading of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Christ revealed as God's beloved Son

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light.

Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Pastor: "The word of God for the people of God."

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Prayer of Preparation: Listen to the voice from heaven – the voice that speaks by the waters of Jordan and atop mountains on high. This voice speaks to us still, revealing truth and guidance through the words of scripture and the lessons of Jesus.

"Glory Revealed"

Exodus 24:12 – 18

Matthew 17:1 – 9

Rev. Dionne T. Hall

Response to the Word: Gracious God, as you spoke from the pillar of cloud to Moses so you spoke from the bright cloud to Jesus and his disciples. May your glory shine through us that our world of sorrow may be transfigured into joy.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; The third day he arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. **Amen. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Sovereign God, you revealed your love and guidance for us on Mount Sinai and the Mount of Transfiguration, giving us a vision of how to live in equity and peace. Trusting in your care for us, we bring you our prayers.

We pray for your church, that it may be the light of love for all people.

We pray for the nations of the world, that their governors may be wise and compassionate.

We pray for those who suffer illness or oppression, that our care for them may bring your healing and liberation.

We pray for your creation, that we may be your wise and obedient stewards.

We pray for all those who are in search of you, that they may walk by the lamp of your Spirit and be at peace in your light now and forever.

Joined together in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all majesty and honor are yours, Holy One, forever and ever.

Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, we confess that we do not trust You fully. We put our hope in worldly gain and in human promises, and find ourselves defeated and lost when things fall apart. You have given us a love more fully than anything we could experience in this world but we do not seek it, we do not hold on to it, and we look to our own means of assurance and security.

Forgive us.

Call us back to You that we may put our trust in You and not be afraid. May we hear the words so clearly as the disciples did on the day of the Transfiguration; may we rise up and not be afraid. In the name of Jesus, who loves us and offers us forgiveness, we pray. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance (responsive)

Leader: You are God's Beloved; with you, God is well pleased. You are renewed and restored. You are forgiven and loved. You are a new creation in Christ, everything old has passed away; see, everything is becoming new. Go and share the good news of God's love.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing of the Peace (responsive)

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. People: And also with you.

Invitation to the Offering

Our God has revealed to us a law and a love that leads us into becoming God's own daughters and sons. Therefore, let us gratefully give from that which has first been given to us, our lives, our talents, and our possessions.

Offertory Anthem 'O Wondrous Type, O Vision Fair' – Arlen Clarke (b. 1954)

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Radiant God, you meet us in moments of mystery and transformation, calling us to listen, to follow, and to give ourselves in love. As we offer these gifts, we confess our impatience with waiting and our longing for clarity, even when you speak from the cloud. Let these offerings be more than habit; let them reflect the light of Christ we have glimpsed on the mountaintop and the hope we carry into the valleys below. Use them—and us—to shine your love where shadows linger, until all your beloved children know they are seen, named, and cherished. In the name of your Beloved Son, we pray. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.

Postlude 'Intrada' – Timothy Redman (1943-2005)

The Light of Christ goes into the world.

Charge

Christ has been revealed to us that we might follow him and transform the world. God in love; work in peace.

Benediction

Come down from the mountain with mountain-like faith.
Walk on God's paths as bright, shining lights.
Live in God's ways with faith, hope, and love.
Go into the world transformed and renewed!

Grace Notes

February 15, 2026

Mission Statement: *Glorify God ~ Draw All to Christ ~ Edify & Equip*

From the Pastor: Behind it all, all these words and all this life, is the declaration of love. That's where the glory is revealed. It's not the light show at the top of the mountain; it's not the devouring fire; it is in the simple statement, "This is my beloved son." It is in the affirmation, "With him, I am well pleased." When we listen, when we take in his words, we too are God's beloved.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/transfiguration-sunday-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/transfiguration-sunday-year-a-music-notes>

Pastor Dionne

Membership Reports: As faithful members of Grace UMC, we faithfully strive to remember our membership vows to support the church by upholding the church with our **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.**

Prayers - Persons listed on Joys & Concerns will appear for two weeks. Please fill out a request card if you would like your request shared on Sunday morning and listed in Grace Notes. You may call or email the church office Monday thru Wednesday (**by 10am**) with those you would like to include or remove. If a person requires additional time, or has a long-term illness, request they be added to the "Long-term" list. The joys and concerns will list first name and last initial; no details will appear.

Joys & Concerns

Feb. 8: Bill M., Mike P., Vickie S., Barbara B. and family, Vanessa S., Rosalie R.

Feb. 1: Bill S., all joys and concerns

Prayers (Long-term): John S., Paul H., Ron S., Robin G., Lucy K.; Bill S., Erin B., Doris K.; Bill H., Wendi C., Margie C., Bev. B., Connie M.; Vickie S., Rhonda and Tony W., Harriett H., Frannie J.,

The Daily Scripture Lessons

Sunday, February 15, 2026: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Monday, February 16, 2026: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34;

Tuesday, February 17, 2026: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 11:1-6;

Wednesday, February 18, 2026: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thursday, February 19, 2026: Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7;

Friday, February 20, 2026: Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17;

Saturday, February 21, 2026: Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7;

Presence – Join us for worship in person or via Facebook Live.

Worship: 54 Sunday School: Facebook Live: Ladies T4U: 15

GIFTS – Your gifts offer HOPE to Grace Church and the community. When we tithe, we follow the example given to us in Genesis 28:10-22 by giving at least 10% to the **General Fund**. United Methodists value the tithe as a benchmark for giving, one we encourage our members to move toward and, once achieved, move beyond. We believe that there is joy in giving, and the greater the generosity the deeper the joy. The **General Fund** is responsible for ensuring all the needs of the church are met; this includes all of the ministries, missions, and operational costs of Grace Church. *The One Board (as of May 14, 2023) asks that all tithes and offerings be placed in the General Fund except those for T.H.R.I.V.E., Micah's Backpack & Building for the Future. Separate envelopes are provided for these ministries and located by the lectern. This is the only way to donate to these ministries.* This will allow Grace Church to move towards fully funding all ministries and missions of the church. This will bring us up to date with current UMC budget practices.

General Fund: \$6,353.87

Endowment Withdrawal: \$

Estate Gift:

Music Fund: \$244.00

Needed for Weekly Budget: \$4,500

Building for the Future: \$325.00

T.H.R.I.V.E. & Micah's Backpack: \$249.00

Service and Witness:

Ushers: J.C. Martin, Bill Thompson, Donna and Roy Shoop, Madison Shoop, Lucas Shoop, Ella Sholty, Justus Osuji

Greeter: Daisy Wolfensberger

Lay Readers: John Hess, Earlene Johnson, Sandy Kendall, Kurt Zimmerman

Media Managers: Donnie Bryan, Roy Shoop

Choir: Becca Bryan, Donnie Bryan, Patti Hull, Hannah Kamseuh, Polly Martin, Peace Osuji, Ryan Wetzel

Congregational Care Committee/Communion Stewards: Chris Jeter, Krista Zimmerman, Cindy Tedrick, Ruth Smith, Patti Hull, Helen Gilliam, Daisy Wolfensberger, Polly Martin, Rose Shank, Earlene Johnson, Sandy Kendall, Donna Bolinger, Amy Bryan, Becca Bryan, Jane Staley, Rhonda Weaver, Wanda Stouffer, Ruth Thompson, Pastor Dionne, Sonja Shearer, Cindy Swales, Patty Frazier, Caroline Jenkins and Vivienne, Margaret Hess

T.H.R.I.V.E. (Thankful, Hopeful, Revitalized, Intentional, Victorious, Educated). Continued needs are non-perishables, dry goods, feminine care products, hand soap, shower gel, razors, shave cream, individually wrapped paper towels and toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste/toothbrushes, laundry detergent, etc. Monetary donations are gratefully accepted, and please use the indicated envelopes located by the lectern. **Closest 712** Volunteers are always appreciated. Donations drop off is Monday -Thursday 10am-12pm., **fall and winter clothing ONLY.** Both T.H.R.I.V.E and the clothes closet are open on Saturday, **March 14, 2026**, 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Pastoral Care and Emergency Contact Information: In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Dionne at (240) 347-2345 (cell), Facebook Messenger, or pastordionne.hall@gmail.com. The church office number is (240) 850-2934. Please inform the hospital and/or funeral home that Pastor Dionne is the Pastor at Grace. **The Pastor and church should be notified of any illness or death of a member or family member first.** The Pastor will confirm availability dates for Services of Death and Resurrection with the funeral home director.

CALENDAR

Sun., Feb. 15	8:30 & 10:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall Worship, <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> Sunday school for all ages
Tues., Feb. 17	3:00 – 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (free to all) Choir Rehearsal
Wed., Feb. 18	12:00 pm 1:30 – 3:00 pm 6:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service with Communion Pop Up Pantry Ash Wednesday Service with Communion
Sat., Feb. 21	9:00 - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm	Chicken, Waffles, and The Chosen Liturgist meeting
Sun., Feb. 22	8:30 & 10:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall Worship, <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> Sunday school for all ages
Tues., Feb. 24	11:00 am 6:30 pm	First Tuesday in Lent Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
Wed., Feb. 25	1:30 – 3:00 pm 7:00 pm	First Wednesday in Lent Service – Otterbein UMC with Rev. Rani Woodrow (meal begins at 6:00 pm) Pop Up Pantry
Sun., Mar. 1	8:30 & 10:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall Worship, <i>Second Sunday in Lent, Communion</i> Sunday school for all ages
Mon., Mar. 2	12:00 pm	T4U Luncheon and meeting
Tues., Mar. 3	11:00 am	Second Tuesday in Lent Bible Study
Wed., Mar. 4	1:30 – 3:00 pm 7:00 pm	Pop Up Pantry Second Wednesday in Lent Service – John Wesley UMC with Rev. Randy Reid (meal begins at 6:00 pm)
Sat., Mar. 7	4:00 pm	American Guild of Organists Celebration of American Composers Concert USA 250th Anniversary

Ash Wednesday – two services will be offered on Ash Wednesday, February 18th.

The Chosen – Join us on Saturdays, February 21 (Episodes 3 & 4), March 21 (Episodes 5 & 6) and April 18 (Episodes 7 & 8) from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for Chicken, Waffles, and The Chosen.

Easter Sunday Flowers – Order forms were in last Sunday's bulletin for Easter Sunday flowers. If you plan to purchase your own flower/lily, please contact the church office **NO LATER than Monday, March 30th**. Call (240-850-2934) or email graceumchagerstown@gmail.com with information for the listing. As in years past, a volunteer has been here at the church on Saturday (the day before Easter and usually in the morning) to receive and place the flowers around the cross or in the windows. No flowers can be placed in the sanctuary until Saturday. If you're able

to volunteer, please contact the church office with a time of availability so the information can be listed in the Grace Notes. **If you drop off your flowers earlier than Saturday, please do not place them in the sanctuary.**