

“Transfiguration Contrastée” by Macha Chmakoff

**Sunday, February 27, 2022**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**

Welcome to worship this morning with the First Baptist Church of Christ. We are thrilled to be back worshipping in our sanctuary after a year outside of our building. As we gather this morning know that we are committed to everyone's safety and comfort as we create sacred space and time together.

### **Things to Know**

- Masks are required at all times during worship, when moving through the building, and when with children. Each Sunday school class is making its own decisions regarding masks in class.
- Please keep social distance by avoiding gathering in groups before and after the service.
- Be mindful of others. Err on the side of caution out of respect for those who are abiding by stricter practices.
- Participate in the service as much or as little as you like. Stand when others stand, or remain seated. Sing when others sing, or enjoy the way this old sanctuary fills with sound. Invitations to stand as you are able are marked with an asterisk (\*). Invitations to respond in word or song are noted in bold.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please find an usher.

### **For Those With Children**

Thank you for bringing a child to worship! Take a deep breath and know they are welcome here. Parents with infants are more than welcome to remain in the sanctuary, or ushers can direct you down the back stairs to a comfortable room with sound from the sanctuary so all can still hear the service. A nursery is provided for children younger than 3. Preschoolers (age 3-kindergarten) are invited to leave after "Let the Children Come" for our W.O.W. (Working on Worship) experience.

### **For Those with Special Needs**

Thank you for joining us for worship! We love our historic buildings, but know they can be a challenge for those with mobility needs. Know that we are committed to doing all we can to make this space welcoming to everyone. Reserved seating for those in wheel chairs and those sitting with them is found near the elevator, and is marked with signs on the walls and on the back of the pews. Please don't hesitate to ask an usher for assistance. If you have special hearing needs, please ask one of the ushers to bring you a hearing assistance device from the sound booth in the back, or feel free to go back there and get one. An accessible restroom is located up one floor across from the office. If you, or someone with you, requires special assistance for any reason, please find a minister or an usher.

## THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

The Sounding of the Hour

Anne Armstrong

*Ford Myrick, acolyte*

The Prelude

“Processional”

Alfred Fedak

*Anne Armstrong, organ*

The Call to Worship

JD Granade

Awaken to the awesome mystery of God,

**Who cradles the earth and all her peoples,**

Who planted the laws of justice and mercy in our hearts,

**Who nurtured and nudged the saints of the ages,**

and the teachers of the people.

**Forgiving them their faults, mistakes,  
addictions, and selfishness,**

**And invited them to grow and change.**

Awaken to this awesome mystery.

**Follow it all your days.**

Improvisation of Psalm 99

\*The Hymn of Praise 58

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

**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.**

**Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;**

**Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above**

**Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**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.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;**

**All praise we would render; O help us to see**

**‘Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

\*The Invocation

Kelsey Stillwell

\*The Gloria Patri 705

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.**

The Welcome

Kelsey Stillwell

“Let the Children Come”

JD Granade

*Children in 3K-K are invited to W.O.W., a preschool worship experience! We will meet with the W.O.W. Shepherds at the end of “Let the Children Come.” Parents, please come pick up your children immediately after worship. The W.O.W. shepherds this week are Elinor Fenimore and Emma Stephens.*

### **THE OFFERING OF GIFTS**

\*The Hymn of Offertory 161

See Our Lord in All His Glory

CWM RHONDDA

**See our Lord in all His glory, now arrayed in dazzling white!  
See Him shine in holy splendor, bathed in everlasting light!  
See the law and prophets gather lifting high the Living Christ!  
Lifting high the Living Christ!**

**See the burning cloud around us guiding through our wilderness.  
Hear the voice of God our Father. Hear the love His words express:  
This my Son is pure and pleasing, Hear the blessing that He brings!  
Hear the blessing that He brings!**

**Jesus Lord, we see Your splendor here and now by daily faith.  
In our service, in our suffering we will follow unafraid,  
On from glory into glory till we see You face to face,  
till we see You face to face.**

\*The Offertory Prayer

Eric Spears  
Vice Chair of Deacons

Offertory

“Oh, How I Love Jesus”  
*The Music Makers Choir  
The Young Musicians Choir*

arr. Dan R. Edwards

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

### THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

Exodus 34:29-35

Jennifer Medgull

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.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

**Thanks be to God**

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Scott Dickison

**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 trespassed 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 and ever, Amen.**

The Anthem

“If I Take the Wings of the Morning”

Julian Dams

*The Chancel Choir*

*Bryan Shelburne, conductor*

If I take the wings of the morning,  
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
Even there shall thy hand lead me,  
And thy right hand uphold me.

Psalms 139:9

The Second Lesson

Luke 9:28-46

Scott Dickison

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.” But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

For the Good News of God,

**Thanks be to God**

The Sermon

“The Dark Thing With Light In It”

Scott Dickison

### **THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT**

\*The Hymn of Commitment 71

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:  
Thou my soul's shelter, and Thou my high tower,  
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

\* The Benediction

Scott Dickison

\*The Congregational Response 512 “We Go in Peace”

Keith Christopher

**We go in peace, we go in love,  
We go in grace and mercy from the Lord above  
To tell the world this very thing:  
That Jesus Christ is Lord and King! Amen!**

\*Postlude

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

arr. David Lowe



## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### Sunday, February 27

9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship
12:15 pm	College lunch
4:00 pm	Spiritual direction group

### Monday, February 28

9:00 am	Crisis Closet
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### Wednesday, March 2

9:30am	Language Ministry
3:00 pm	Open Time in youth room and children's center
4:45 pm	Children Worship Arts Workshops
5:30 pm	Youth Choir
5:30 pm	Family Dinner
6:00 pm	Children's Choir
6:15 pm	Youth "Unplugged"
6:30 pm	Language Ministry
6:30 pm	Choir Practice
6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
6:45 pm	Flex time for children

### Sunday, March 6

9:00 am	Personnel Committee
9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship with communion

### Deacons of the Week

February 24	Harriet Eason
March 3	Suzy Nicholson

### Birthdays

February 27	Madeline Davis
March 1	Susan Broome
March 1	David Hunt
March 1	Eric O'Dell
March 1	Troy Tarpley

March 3	Anita Gustafson
March 4	Shirley Morley
March 4	Mary Barnes
March 5	Monica Stevens

### Condolences

We grieve with our Circle of Hope family on the death of **Annie Walker** on February 7.

We grieve with the Hagerman family on the death of **Cliff Hagerman** on February 9.

### Save the Date

March 2	Ash Wednesday
Sunday, April 3	Children's Sunday
April 29 - May 1	Men's Retreat

### Wednesday Night Supper Menu

Crispy chicken tenders, green salad, corn on cob, Hawaiian rolls, and M&M Fudge Cookies.

### WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

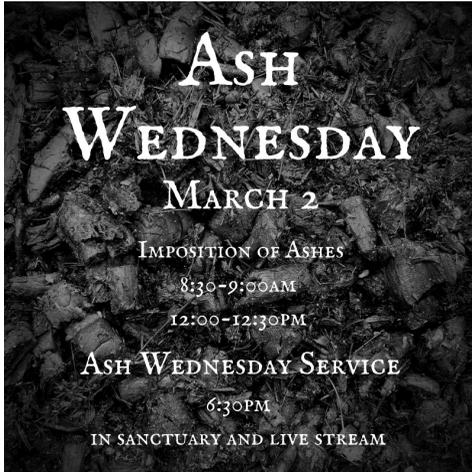
We will meet on March 13, 2022, at 6:00 pm at the home of Tricia Whitby, 210 Sleepy Creek Rd, 31210. Our selection for this meeting is Jodi Picoult's book, *Wish You Were Here*. Author Taylor Jenkins Reid describes it as "a powerfully evocative story of resilience and the triumph of the human spirit". Many of us are familiar with Jodi Picoult's books and know that they are always profound and lead to great discussions.

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## COLLEGE STUDENT LUNCH

Today! Meet Kelsey after worship and we will go to lunch together.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE



## REGULAR WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE TO RESUME THIS WEEK

Given the sharp decline in infection locally, the Pandemic Task Force has approved a plan to resume our regular Wednesday night schedule this coming Wednesday, March 2. Supper will be served starting at 5:30 pm. If weather permits we will have tables set up out on the terrace in the front of the church for those who would like to dine outside.

Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.

## PANDEMIC TASK FORCE TO MEET TODAY

Our task force will meet today to discuss plans for protocols for the coming months. We continue to be grateful for the congregation's patience, cooperation, and imagination as we navigate this long season.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN VESPERS IN THE PARK AT 6:30 PM

Beginning next week, March 9, on Wednesday nights through the Lenten season we will gather in High St. Park across the street from the church for an evening Vespers service. Join us for this time of midweek sunset prayer. Seating is available in the amphitheater, but you are welcome to bring a lawn chair. In case of weather we will move to the fellowship hall. This service will not be live-streamed.

## ONLINE LENTEN DEVOTIONAL TO RETURN

We are excited to once again offer an online lenten devotional featuring authors from within our congregation. This year's edition will use the same website as last year, so if you subscribed, then there should be no need to subscribe again. Devotions will be sent to your inbox on Ash Wednesday and each Sunday in Lent. There will be daily offerings during Holy Week. To subscribe, follow the link in the weekly email. Thank you to Kathy Manis Findley for once again spearheading this project and to all of our writers for sharing their gifts.

## **MEN'S RETREAT, APR. 29 - MAY 1**

Cloudland Canyon State Park

Men's Retreat returns! After a two-year hiatus, we will once again gather for a weekend of communing with each other and with creation. We will return to Cloudland Canyon State Park, staying in the group lodge. All ages and comfort levels in the outdoors welcome and valued. Cost is \$50. Sign up on the FBCX website.

## **SANCTUARY FLOWER SIGN UP**

No one has volunteered to sponsor flowers in March. Please consider signing up! You'll be glad you did, and the church will be glad you did. If you have any questions — the process, suggestions for a florist, etc. — please contact Mary Leonard, 478-745-3866 Home, 478-737-4171 Cell, or michael.leonard1@cox.net. Thank you!

## **CHILDREN'S NEWS:**

Children's Sunday 4/3

On this last Sunday before Holy Week the children of FBCX will lead us in worship.

## **Save the Summer Dates**

June 20-24—VBS

July 17-20—PassportKids Camp (grades 3-5)

## **YOUTH NEWS:**

### **March Mission Madness**

March 18-20

Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church,  
Atlanta, GA

Cost: \$125 (Includes lodging, 3 meals, and a t-shirt)

MMM is a youth mission weekend hosted by CBF of GA. We will join other churches in Georgia to work and learn about different ministries in Atlanta and how they are showing God's love in their community. We will leave Friday after school and return Sunday after morning worship. We will stay in a hotel or lodge in Atlanta near the church.



## Now. Here. This.

In his introduction to the third edition of *“Prayers for Private Devotions in War-Time,”* a collection of prayers produced by The Memorial Church at Harvard University, Rev. Peter J. Gomes writes,

“Prayer is most needed when we are most divided, and we need the language of prayer that takes us out of ourselves and into something greater than either ourselves or our cause...we pray not only for ourselves and for our friends and neighbors, but we pray for our enemies and our dangerous world as well, that, in the words of John Keble, ‘we may live more nearly as we pray.’”

I thought of this prayer book and Rev. Gomes’ words (he was a dear mentor of mine in divinity school) this week as the drumbeat of war that had been building for the past several weeks finally crescendoed when Russia invaded Ukraine late Wednesday night.

I write these words on Thursday morning, mindful that much will likely have changed by the time you read them Sunday morning and beyond. And yet I doubt that the images of war in Europe as we have not seen in decades will be any less disorienting.

Rev. Gomes writes, too, “War quickens our senses and makes us mindful of what is most precious and fragile in life.”

Sadly, we have endured an extended season of such clarifying reflection as our world has been upended by an international pandemic, and so as ominous as these images are, I can’t help but feel as if they are part of a conclusion

to which we have been headed for some time.

Of course, the US is not at war, at least not yet. But again as we have reminded, painfully, over the past two years, our world is connected like it’s never been before. And so we will no doubt feel the shock waves of whatever proceeds half a world over.

Yet it may be that by some holy confluence we are given added resources to hold and endure these things as we begin our Lenten journey in the week ahead. Lent began in the early centuries of a church as a time of preparation for those seeking baptism, which would occur during the Easter Vigil. Over time it was expanded to be a time of penance and purification for the entire church, as we recommit ourselves to walk with Jesus to the cross.

Even though our Lenten journey will not officially begin until this coming Wednesday, as Paul reminds us, our life of prayer is “without ceasing.” So it is in that spirit that I offer this prayer “For World Peace” found in the Memorial Church volume, that it would give us words and perspective to draw from as we enter this season ahead:

Look in compassion, O Heavenly Father, upon this troubled and divided world. We cannot trace thy footsteps or understand thy working; yet give us grace to trust thee now with an undoubting faith, and when thine own time is come, reveal, O Lord, that new heaven and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, and where the Prince of Peace ruleth; even our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SHD

## Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and Communion table along with the ministers' stoles are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. Transfiguration Sunday is celebrated on the final Sunday before the season of Lent begins and remembers the scene from the Gospels when Jesus was "transfigured" in light and blessed by God. It serves as a bridge between Jesus' public ministry and his passion. From the time of the Transfiguration, Jesus "sets his face toward Jerusalem" and the cross, and so do we. The liturgical color for this Sunday is white, symbolizing light and blessing.

## Sanctuary Flowers

The sanctuary flowers are given by Dan and Jackie Riley to the glory of God and in celebration of what would have been Maxie Riley's 100th birthday on February 22.



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