

Greetings to our members, those from United Congregational Church in Conway and all our friends at home,

This Sunday is the last Sunday before the season of Lent begins this Wednesday, February 17. Traditionally, the three days before Ash Wednesday are a time of celebration, of music, dance, parades, big dinners, and family gatherings. This service has been designed with this in mind, incorporating the Transfiguration of Christ from the Gospel, with the celebratory music of Jazz. The Worship Resource and the YouTube video link are provided below.

A reminder about of two Lenten opportunities:

24th Annual Lenten Discussion Series: This is a six-week program under the title: *Even the Cherry Blossom Falls*. Each session begins at 7 PM, all sessions are on consecutive Wednesday evenings and all will be offered through a Zoom link. There are six congregations involved in this series including First Congregational Church of Shelburne. The first session begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 with the Rev. Linda Rhinehart Neas from the Whately Congregational Church. I will be sending out the Zoom link on Monday.

Franklin County Interfaith Council is offering a Lenten Ecumenical and Interfaith program titled *Lifting the Veil: Racism in Franklin County*. This is a three-part program, beginning at 7 PM and offered through a Zoom link that will be send before each session. The three dates are: Wednesday, Feb. 24, Thursday, March 11 and Thursday, March 25. The flier for this program, including the Zoom link, is attached to this note.

Wishing you God's peace,

Pastor Rob

Welcome to Sunday Worship February 14, 2021

Good Morning to our members, those from United Congregational Church in Conway and all our friends at home. This Sunday is the last Sunday before the season of Lent begins this coming Wednesday, February 17th. Traditionally, the Gospel lesson for this Sunday is one of the accounts of the transfiguration. Today we will hear the account from the Gospel according to Mark.

Prayer Requests: We are accepting requests for prayer (healing, comfort, thanksgiving, and others). Please send your requests to the Pastor at pastor01089@gmail.com. Requests will then be sent out through our email list to the congregation for our common prayer life during the week. PLEASE remember that all prayer requests received become public knowledge. If you are uncertain if your request for another might be confidential, do not send it.

And now let us be in worship

Call to Worship (Responsive, L=Leader, P=People) *Psalm 96*

L O Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth

**P Sing to the Lord, all the earth,
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

L O Sing to the Lord a new song.

Morning Unison Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Bless, O Lord, all who have the song of your gospel in their hearts. Bless all who bring this song out into the world. Bless all who create music, those who inspire it, and those who participate in listening. Grant that the music we bring comes from our hearts inspired by our faith that what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord....*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 forever. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

On this transfiguration Sunday when we recall the disciples' experience of being in the presence of the holy, our prayers focus on our desire for prayer, for the experience of being in the presence of God. There is an opportunity to include your own prayers and be in meditation. Let us come before God.

And now we come to you, loving, gracious, awesome God. We come to you, creator, sustainer, ancient of days. We come to you, asking a hearing, a moment to speak with you, to bend your ear to our voices, our joyous voices in thanksgiving, our timid voices of uncertainty, our angry voices of despair and our whispers and sighs of hurt and sorrow. We come to you to pour it all out, hoping that what we have to say will make a difference in our lives and in the lives of others for whom we pray. Joyful, grateful, uncertain, and despairing, angry, and full of sorrow, we come to you. Rejoicing, asking, begging, pleading, for those we love, for those who need your healing, your forgiveness, your tender mercies, your peace, and your direction. Often, O God, we are overwhelmed with our needs and the needs of others. Often, we are overwhelmed by our own words. We are incessantly verbal, as the carol says, our babel sounds. Loving God, what we would rather be is awed by your glory. Blinded by your light, stuffed full of your wisdom. Running over with your love. We would rather be shown, beyond the shadows of our doubts, the way you would have us go. The way it will be for us and for others. The way that so often eludes us as we so often elude ourselves, not able to see what others so clearly do. Come to us then, loving, gracious, and. awesome God. Come to us in your glowing grace, in your tender mercies. Come to us in the still small voice and in the whispers of the breeze. Come to us in the melodies of music, in the gracefulness of poetry, and in the beauty of your Word. Come to us and reveal your wonder through those whom we love, through their touch, their laughter and in their joy. Come to us in

the blessedness of precious moments of quietness, and inescapable majesty. Come to us, you who brings light from darkness, creation from chaos, joy from sorrow, hope from despair, peace from hate and life from death, Come to us in this blessed time of peace and prayer and meditation. (Personal prayer and meditation) In our yearning for you, O God, hear these our gathered prayers. We offer them all in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-9

During the second year of his ministry, Jesus pursued his work in Galilee for the entire year. As he traveled with his disciples, the crowds followed him across the countryside seeking his healing touch. In time, the message Jesus came to deliver was overshadowed by the miracles that people hoped for. By the end of the year voices of opposition to his teaching were rising up around him. For six more months, Jesus moved throughout the region before leaving, never to return. Just before his departure Jesus took three of his closest companions and headed for the mountain top. Our Gospel lesson today is one account of what has become known as the transfiguration.

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

After the reading, you may reflect on this passage.

The sermon for this text may be seen in this week's video.

Sermon: *The Jazz of Church*

Benediction

Lord, make us more holy,
Lord make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy,
until we meet again.