



THE PATH TO
TRANSFIGURATION
MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 www.uccmedina.org

*****Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher*****

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

- *During the 10:30 service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8th grade*

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “To God Be the Glory” – arr. Roger House

Jerry Mason, Guest Organist

WELCOME

Leader: Good morning, Church! We are Medina, United Church of Christ, Congregational, and no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,

People: **You are welcome here!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***OPENING HYMN**

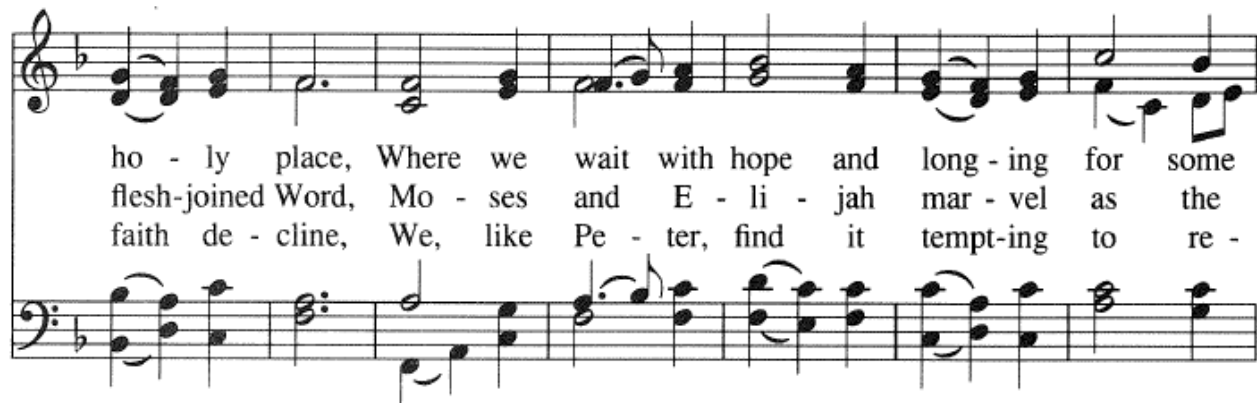
“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.

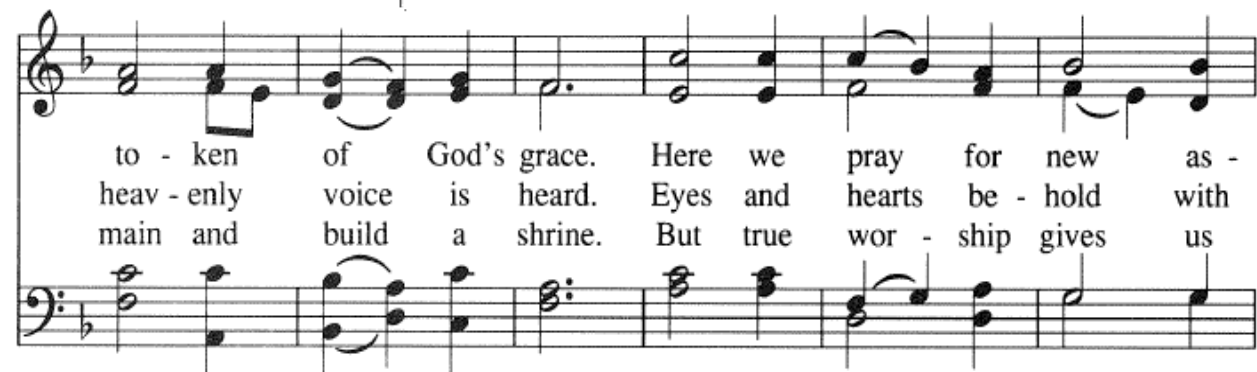
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

Rowland H. Pritchard, 1844; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906


1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our



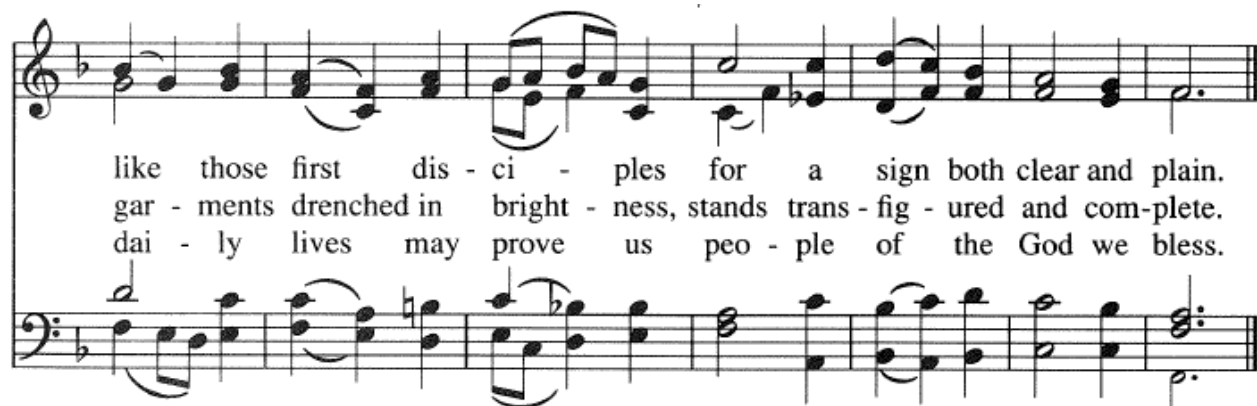
ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -



to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us



sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our



like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com-plete.
dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Friends, today we remember Jesus who took his friends and went to pray on a mountain.

We too would like to glimpse the divine.

Yet we do not live on mountain tops,

But down in the valley where the life is.

May our worship today help you find where the divine dwells;

In our neighbor. With the meek and lowly. With the persecuted and outcast.

In our hearts.

Bless and be in this worship today, Holy One

As you already are, for when two or three are gathered, you are there. Thanks be to you, our God, our Christ, our Spirit. Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“This Little Light of Mine”

Children’s Choir & guests

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 17:1-9 (N.T. pg. 17)

Nick North, Liturgist

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

Stacie Yates

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 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

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

SERMON

“The Path to Transfiguration”

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 © 1970, 1975 Celebration

Kathleen Thomerson; acc. Robert J. Batastini, b. 1942 © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

HOUSTON 10.7.10.8.9.9.10.7.

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right-eous-ness shine on my path, And
When we have run with pa-tience the race, We
star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The
night and the day are both a - like. The
Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

There is an offering plate if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there.

You can also give through our Realm app or get the link to give by texting UCCMEDINA to 73256.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Offertory Invitation

Today, any loose cash will be given for Hobby Horse Scholarships.

We are so thankful to be able to serve our community through our preschool.

Holy One, may you bless this ministry and service.

Bless our teachers and staff, and all our preschool families.

***Doxology** (words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)

Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;

Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God, you bring us together in this place,
we come to be fed,
to be renewed,
to learn.

God, you challenge us in this place,
we embrace the challenge,
trusting that through challenge we grow in faith.

God, you are revealed in this place,
sometimes in shining glory,
sometimes in tears and struggle.

God as we worship in this place,
refresh, renew, and challenge us
so that we would see your awesomeness.

We pray in Jesus' name,
as we strive to walk the path of discipleship
to welcome, love, and serve all our neighbors.
Bless our preschool and the scholarship fund.
Thanks be to you, our God from whom all blessings flow. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"The Lord Is My Light"

Words: Lillian Bouknight; Music: Lillian Bouknight, arr. Paul Gainer © 1980 Savgos Music, Inc. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.
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The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second and third staves contain the second line, and the fourth staff contains the third line. The lyrics are: 'The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion; whom shall I ____ fear? Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear? ____'.

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my
light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my light and
my sal - va - tion; whom shall I ____ fear?
Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear? ____

The Lord is the strength of my life;
 whom shall I fear? In the time of trou - ble,
 He shall hide me, O in the time of trou - ble,
 He shall hide me, in the time of trou - ble,
 He shall hide me; whom shall I fear?

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

May you go from here with a Transfigured view;

Ready and willing to see Christ all around us.

May you go from here knowing that this view is possible right here, right now;

Not just something that happened on a mountain a long, long time ago in a Galilee far-far away.

May you know that you have been blessed to be a blessing;

Unleashed upon an unsuspecting world to commit random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty.

Go! For this service has ended,

And our service now begins. Amen!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"

God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;

With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.

*POSTLUDE "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven" – arr. John Behnke Jerry Mason, Guest Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service.
Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Hobby Horse Preschool*

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor - karen@uccmedina.org
Ryan Collins, Ministerial Intern - ryan@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - office@uccmedina.org
Jeff Miller, Financial Director - jeff@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education - stacie@uccmedina.org
Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth - nicole@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - jenny@uccmedina.org
Cathy Fafrak, Organist - cathy@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool - jen@uccmedina.org
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Sharon Perry, Custodian

SANCTUARY BANNERS

As we turn our thoughts to Lent, take notice of the banners that hang in the Sanctuary. Not unlike the Chrismon Tree, some people may not know the exact meaning of the different elements and symbols of each banner. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, you will notice the Banners will be changed for the Lenten Season. Here is what they mean:



"Now is the Day of Salvation"

(Ash Wednesday Cross)

The verse is taken from the pericopes for Ash Wednesday. Violet (color for Lent) indicates sorrow for the sins that put Jesus on the cross. The thorns reinforce the earthly reality of Jesus' suffering. The sunrise of Easter Morning appears in the background showing the completion of God's promise of salvation for all.

"Lent Lamb"

The halo distinguishes the Lamb as Christ. The Lamb of God was sacrificed on the cross for the forgiveness of all sins. Violet represents the sorrow and suffering of the Lenten season.



THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at www.uccmedina.org/live

February 19, 2023 thru February 26, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun HOBBY HORSE SUNDAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:30 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
9:45 am Children's Choir
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
4:30 pm Youth Group
4:30 pm Men's Group

Mon Church Office closed-President's Day

Tues 1:00 pm Breadmakers
6:00 pm Pancake Party!
7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thurs 7:00 pm Congregational Council

Fri Costa Rica Mission Trip

Sat

Sun First Sunday of Lent

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:30 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
9:45 am Children's Choir
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

Worship Highlights: 8:15 am & 10:30 am

Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon: "The Path to Transfiguration"
Rev. Luke Lindon

9:00 am "Taizé"

Communion Table: The flowers are given by Autumn Keller & Summer Scaggs in memory of their parents, Char & Phil Scaggs and their brother, Travis.

TODAY IS HOBBY HORSE SUNDAY!

The church has put out a special invitation to all our Hobby Horse Preschool families to join us in worship. The hope is that they will see what a welcoming, loving and serving community we really are, and consider joining our church family as well.

We will also be collecting donations for the Hobby Horse Scholarship Fund. This means that all offerings, other than your usual pledge, will go directly to the Scholarship Fund. Please consider a donation for the smallest among us and greet them all with your usual warm welcome!

DONATION OF THE MONTH

The February item we are collecting is **Dish Soap!**

If you would like to donate an item, place it in the bin by the elevator in the lobby and the Mission Team will distribute the items to the organizations in need! We collected rolls of paper towels in January! Thank you for your generosity!

ENDOWMENT FUND GIVING

Every February, the ENDOWMENT FUND asks our church family to consider sharing in the growth of the FUND by a donation. What better way to show your love of a family member or dear friend than by honoring them with a donation in their name. These donations to the FUND can be used for projects throughout the mission life of the UCC Church.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

Beginning on Friday, March 3rd from 7:00-8:30 pm, we will hold our first Mental Health Support Group in Fellowship Hall. This is a peer-to-peer support group where vulnerability is encouraged. This is a safe space to share our pain, our tears and our hopes for deep healing in our lives. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the East Room Hallway. See you there!

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

The Evangelism team is looking for new ideas for spirit wear. If you feel creative please submit your artwork or T-shirt design idea to Jen Cockrell at Jenn27@zoominternet.net. If your idea is selected, it will be on the new spirit wear. Plus you will win a \$10 gift card to Courthouse Pizzeria. Deadline is March 31. Good luck, everyone!

INSTRUMENTALISTS NEEDED FOR EASTER!

We are calling all instrumentalists for the Easter Sunday 10:30 Service! Let me know if you would like to play and you will receive music from me in February. Stay tuned for several rehearsal dates prior to Easter. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Email Jenny Cochran at jenny@uccmedina.org

YOUTH GROUP GATHERING

Youth Group will be gathering on **Sunday February 19th from 4:30-6 pm.** We are going to be putting together the rest of the personal care items for the tiny pantries and if we have enough time, we are planning to take the kids to the Square to walk around and look at the ice sculptures. If you could, please have your kiddos bring a coat. See you there!

LENTEN SEASON

Lent 2023 will be based on the book "The Idolatry of God" by Peter Rollins. This book talks about the advertising formula of the idol: certainty and satisfaction. "Buy this product, and you'll be completely satisfied or your money back." This formula has been adopted by the church onto God: "Be certain of your belief, and you'll be satisfied."

Lent is a time in the church year to re-evaluate our faith. Often, Christians give something up. Sometimes we need to give up our certainty and be more open to questions to become a more loving and active manifestation of Christ's love. Rollins says that joyfully embracing our brokenness, facing the unknown, and accepting difficulties can lead to the life abundant that Christ offers.

IT'S A PANCAKE PARTY!

Stop by Medina UCCC on Tues, February 21st at 6 p.m. to have breakfast for dinner! Let's eat some pancakes and kick off Lent together! Suggested donation of \$5 per plate. This is a Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser, so fill your tummies and help out the youth at the same time!



The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am
Please submit articles to the church office at office@uccmedina.org
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

February 19, 2023
Transfiguration Sunday

Matthew 17:1-9

Dazzling Reign

Bleach and ashes.

This week, we mark the beginning of the season of Lent on Wednesday, traditionally called Ash Wednesday. But before we get to Wednesday, we pause here on Sunday, and with the disciples climb the mountain where we see Jesus transfigured, his face and clothes dazzling, almost as if they've been bleached.

Bleach and ashes.

The ashes on Wednesday symbolize our mortality - they remind us that we come from God and to God we return. When the mark of ashes is placed on a forehead or hand, we are invited to step into Lent in a posture of repentance. But before we are reminded we are all human, we are reminded by Jesus that we are also all divine. Before we are invited into repentance, into a time of turning from sin, we are invited into a moment of grace so glorious it seems blinding.

Bleach and ashes.

It's no accident that we always acknowledge the Transfiguration, just days before we step into Lent. It's because we need both. We need the blinding light of the divine as much as we need to remember that we are ultimately made of the same dirt as the rest of creation. We are star stuff and we are earthy stuff and both are vital to our experience as humans.

Bleach and ashes.

As you begin the long Lenten journey this week, you are invited up the mountain to raise your arms in wonder to the Light. In a few days you will be invited to the valley as, with your bare hands, you scoop the dirt from the ground. Carry both the light and the dirt with you. You will need them both. Remember both.

Bleach and ashes.