

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, March 2nd, 2025
Transfiguration Sunday

Praise Medley: Sweet Hour of Prayer
Jesus Saw Them Fishing

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love **VU 593 vs 1,4**

Call to Worship:

From a cloud and in a crowd, God speaks to us.

Calling us to be lovers of justice, to share hope with the broken.

On mountaintops and in neighbourhoods, Christ calls to us.

With a word and with wonder, moulding us into who we are.

On the playground and at the workstation, the Spirit whispers in our hearts.

Gathering up our fears, as well as our dreams, and offering them to God.

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

Listener of our souls, when we would become adept at chicanery, you hand us the rule book on fair play you have written. When we would brag about all our achievements, your glory silences our prattling so we can hear your soft whispers of wonder. Listener to our hearts, when we memorize all the goals and objectives taught to us by sin and death, you become the nemesis of our mismanaged lives, yet you soften our pride with the warmth of your grace. When our lives are veiled with pride and ignorance, you turn us inside out to reveal who we truly are. Holy One, with you we never lose heart. We come with all our faults and hopes ready to worship and grow in faith. Amen.

Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story **VU 343**

A Time for All People

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

We admit that we are often afraid to come near you, Glorious Creator. For if we do, you might see how our faces darken with anger as we speak hurtful words, or whiten with fear of those who are different, or redden from the depths of our desires. We can spend so much time gazing in the mirror of our longings, that we are unable to see the faces etched with loneliness, hollowed by hunger, overshadowed by hopelessness.

You reveal the mystery of your grace, Holy One, by pouring out mercy upon us. As you bend down to listen, may we speak your love to all those around us. As you call us into your presence, you send us out to do your justice which brings hope to the world. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Saviour, our Love, our Justice.

(Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

On mountaintops and in valleys, in our hopes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves!

By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn: Take Time to Be Holy **VU 672**

Offertory Hymn: For Food in a World **VU 551**

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

Holy Mystery, help us tap into the deep faith of Elijah, Moses and Jesus. Through our giving, expand our hearts to make room for challenge and joy, transformation and summons. As we offer our tangible gifts to You, we ask that You take them and those already given through PAR, and use them to help us create transformation in the world, in our homes, and in ourselves. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures: Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99 **on page 819 of VU**

Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2

Gospel Lesson: Luke 9:28-36

Ministry of Music

Meditation

Communion Hymn: We Gather Here **VU 469**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

Hymn: Will Your Anchor Hold **VU 675**

Commission and Benediction:

Go now, as those who have been with Jesus on the mountaintop of wonder, to serve others in the broken valleys of life.

With words of life on our lips, with the wonder of laughter in our hearts, we will follow Jesus to all who seek healing and love, and bring reconciliation to those who are strangers to hope.