



**March 2nd, 2025 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM |
Transfiguration Sunday**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

James Stanley

Arise | C.E. Walz

CALL TO WORSHIP †

Rev. Natasha Murray

Seek the Lord while God is to be found.

Call upon God while God is near!

Repent of unrighteous ways.

It is never too late to turn to God!

Get rid of evil thoughts.

Let us turn to God, that God may have mercy on us!

For God will pardon our sins and cleanse us
of our transgressions.

We will praise God for the new life we have found!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 340 †

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy | United Methodist Hymnal

PRAYER OF THE DAY †

God our maker, we honor the sacred multitude that resides in you. May the guardian in you protect us. May the child in you delight in us. May the friend in you challenge us. May your ashes resurrect us. May your sky shelter us. May the mystery of you liberate us.

Provide abundance and healing in all forms to those who need it today, and deliver us from shame, hatred, and the chains that bind us. For you have made us- *glory*- we are still being made. Amen.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just. He will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Caring God, We confess we have not loved this world well. We have not loved ourselves. We have dismissed concepts of love as frivolous and naïve, failing to recognize the wisdom in choosing tenderness and attachment in a society that trains us to exploit

one another. We have lost our passions, allowing our days to be consumed with the practical and boring. Our delight has been drained as we try to survive exhaustion. We confess we are afraid, lacking the courage to risk ourselves on love for fear of losing it. We have taken advantage of those we know will not leave us, withholding affection and allowing them to receive so much more of our hatred than our gratitude.

Forgive us. And have mercy on all our charades of heartlessness, that we would claim a life of more than mere survival. That we would love and be loved in return, all our days, in love's many forms. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Let your soul receive this rest: Forgive yourself, choosing self-compassion over unlove. Be assured by the divine that, despite your deepest doubts, you are loveable. That you are adored by God, as they look upon your face and swell with delight. May you be forgiven for how you've replicated lovelessness in the world. And as you are nourished by abounding mercy, may you also extend it, remembering that we are healed by both love received and love given.

Hallelujah! Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 365

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!

PASSING OF THE PEACE †

May the peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 365

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!

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OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jessica Szenher

Isaiah 55: 10-13

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David C. Freeman

Inherent Good

q c r o n m r c " s n " s g c " v n q b

OFFERTORY

Chancel Choir

My Eternal King \ Jane Marshall

DOXOLOGY 94 †

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

FUMCLR WELCOME STATEMENT †

You are a child of God created in the Divine Image. You are welcomed, affirmed, and included at First Church, not despite, but because of your age, ability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity. This is how the Holy Spirit works: when you are welcomed, all are welcomed. When all are welcomed and embraced as the Body of Christ, the world is transformed into a place where all of God's Children can THRIVE, finding the Trust, Health, Relationship, Imagination, Value, and Education they need. We are all children of God. Thanks be to God.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING †

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...ultimately providing enough for all in attendance with twelve additional baskets to share.

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith

Christ has died. Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

...feel your love and experience the winds of your righteousness.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest

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THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE GIVING OF THE CUP

*Communion hymns can be found on pages 452, 453
in the United Methodist Hymnal.*

SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP †

HYMN OF COMMITMENT †

The Trees of the Field | Insert attached to last page

BENEDICTION †

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE †

Chancel Choir

The Trees of the Field | Insert attached to last page

POSTLUDE

James Stanley

Rejoice, Ye Pure in the Heart | C.E. Walz

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, March 2, 2025

9:00 am	First Word (Cokesbury)
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	First Tradition (Sanctuary)
12:00 pm	First Arts Sundays
12:00 pm	Pastor's Book Club
5:00 pm	Youth Gathering

5:30 pm Canvas Community Worship

Monday, March 3, 2025

9:00 am Flower Girls
12:00 pm Finance AD HOC Committee
1:00 pm Community Café
5:00 pm SPRC Meeting
6:00 pm Walking The Mourner's Path
6:30 pm Beginner Taiko

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

7:00 am Tues Morning Bible Study
9:00 am Staff Meeting
10:30 am Worship Planning
1:00 pm Community Café
3:00 pm First Arts
6:00 pm Meditation Group
6:30 pm Intermediate Taiko

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

9:30 am CDC Chapel
11:00 am Canvas Meal Prep
12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship
1:00 pm Community Café
5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper
6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship
7:00 pm Chancel Choir