



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY



We Follow the Light of Christ

Prelude *"Come Christians, Join to Sing"* Ashley Clasen
By Christian Bateman / arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Invitation to worship

Invocation Marge Doty

Holy One,
We come before you, many of us feeling like we have climbed just a part of the mountain, and there is so much more of a climb left to even get to a point to dream that we might be dazzled by what is Divine.

Our loads are heavy...with worry, with regret, with fatigue, with illness, with despair for all in the world that is hurting, in danger, in bondage and more.

We trudge ahead, following you, stumbling, hoping, praying...breathing hard, hearts pounding, and yes, even some of us are nimble and skipping.

Lead us Lord, to the top of that mountain, where we might be dazzled by your Light, lifted by what is Divine, filled by the sheer delight of what is grounded and real.

We pray this, for ourselves, for one another, and for the worlds in which we live in. Amen.

Hymn *"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"* Carolyn Robbins

Prayer of Confession *based on I Corinthians 13* Rev. Horton

God of Love,
We confess we are sometimes impatient, and often unkind, We are quick to envy and find subtle ways to boast. There are times we are rude and lift ourselves up as we put others down. Forgive us, O lord.

God of Love,
We confess that we are quickly angered. We are quick to record how often we've been wronged. There are times we celebrate the misfortune of others. Forgive us, o lord.

God of Love,

We confess that we put ourselves first. We're reluctant to give, we are slow to sacrifice. There are times we hesitate to protect.

Forgive us,

When we are tempted to judge, to assume the worst...

When we are tempted to despair, to assume all is lost...

When we are tempted to give up,

May love remind us to persevere. Forgive us and teach us we pray. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

"May the peace of Christ be with you."

Hymn

"On Holy Ground"

Ellen Peterson

Scripture

Mark 9: 2-9

Rev. Horton

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.

Sermon

"Mountains of Love and Laundry"

Hymn

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Coming"

John Maze

Benediction

Postlude

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Ashley Clasen

By A Gordon / arr. Mark Hayes

Join our **Fellowship & Prayer Concerns** after worship from 12-12:30PM and catch up with your church friends! **Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)**

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FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

104 EAST CENTER STREET, LEXINGTON, NC 27292

PHONE: 336-248-2617 WEBSITE: www.frucc.org FACEBOOK: <https://facebook.com/firstreformeducc>

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton (elizabeth@frucc.org, cell/text #336-972-8895)

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. June Grubb (jgrubb3@triad.rr.com #336-248-5668)

Choir Director: Ellen Peterson (ellenpeterson@gmail.com) **Pianist:** Ashley Clasen

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

15th ...Abbie Callicutt

17th ...Lee Bouchard

...Amy Hedrick

18th ...Kalyssa Hutchens

19th...Susan Morris

20th...Frank Callicutt

...Janett Neal

ANNIVERSARIES

18th

Jerry & Merle Hodges (Happy 60th Anniversary!)

20th

Larry & Betty Link

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

*Smithie Parrish (recovering at home), Tony Peele (recovering from hand surgery at home), Alisa Johnson (recovering from knee surgery at home), Merle and Jerry Hodges, Susan Odom (at home), Ellen Bouchard, Lisa Price, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crofts, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

OUR FRIENDS:

Frank Westmoreland (on the loss of his mother, Geraldine Westmoreland), Earl Parker (Elizabeth Horton's dad, recovering at home), Patricia Roberts (Stacey Potts' mother), Bob Sheehan (Eddie Yates' brother-in-law), Clarke Ward (father of Jay & Cathy Whitley's son-in-law), Miriam Logan (Sarah Potts' grandmother), Wendi Greene (Bill Robbins' sister), Ashley Thomason Hutcherson (Ron & Heidi Hutcherson's daughter-in-law), Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother), Angie Bouchard (Lee and Ellen Bouchard's youngest daughter)

**Indicates newly added. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. To add a name to the prayer list please call the church office (336-248-2617).*

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, February 14: Transfiguration Sunday

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: FOLLOW ME

Transfiguration Sunday

Mark 9:2-29

"But Only Jesus" (Rev. Mike Hooper, Facilitator)

10:45AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).

12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns

Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)

TUESDAY, February 16:

12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via ZOOM: Voices of the 2CFar People of Color

Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 Passcode: 222495)

7:00PM Adult Book Study Group

"Who Will Be A Witness? Integrating Activism for God's Justice" by Drew G. I. Hart

Join the meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 846 9163 5471 Passcode: 524570)

WEDNESDAY, February 17: ASH WEDNESDAY

VARIOUS TIMES Our Lexington area clergy are partnering together to offer **The Imposition of Ashes to mark the beginning of Lent.**

Clergy will be in various places in the uptown area throughout the day. **At 9-11:00AM, 12-2:00PM, and 5-7:00PM, there will be 2 stations near 1st Baptist, 1st United Methodist, and 1st Presbyterian churches and 1 station near 1st Reformed UCC / St. Stephen United Methodist where you may receive the Imposition of Ashes either in your car or by walk up.**

Outside, Covid Protocols will be in place.

We will collect prayer requests and donations to Davidson County Crisis Fund.

5:30PM High School Youth via Zoom

SATURDAY, February 20:

12:30PM Open Hands Ministry Carry-Out Lunch Served

SUNDAY, February 21: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: REND YOUR HEARTS: CLAIMING THE PROMISE

First Sunday in Lent – “**This is the Sign**”

Genesis 9:8-17

10:45AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).

12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns

Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)

2:00PM 2nd Annual Commemoration to the Slaves

You are invited to join St. Stephen United Methodist Church at the Slave Grave Site in the Lexington City Cemetery (on the North State Street side) for a service of Commemoration, Committal and Laying of the Wreath, led by Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly.

FIRST REFORMED UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Dear Friends,

When has the presence of God been real to you?

This Sunday, we conclude our *Follow Me* series by going with Jesus and the disciples up the mountain ([Mark 9: 2-9](#)). It is on this mountain that the disciples experience God's presence like never before.

As we have traveled with Jesus and the disciples over the past few weeks, I pray you are hearing God's call in your life for this particular time. Where are you being called to Follow Christ?

Perhaps to bring joy to the sorrowful...Food to the hungry...Help to the homeless...Relief to the suffering...Kindness to the stranger...Compassion to the grieving...Wholeness to the broken... Advocate for the voiceless...Hope for the desperate.

No matter where God leads you, God will always equip you along the way.

Seeking to serve faithfully with you

Elizabeth

OPEN HANDS SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY

Open Hands Ministry and First Reformed UCC have joined to start a new lunch program. We will serve a carry-out lunch at 12:30 on Saturdays out of the Fellowship Hall kitchen at First Reformed. Volunteer or come for a carry-out meal for this Saturday Lunch. Contact John Maze if you would like to help. (704-524-6462)

ASH WEDNESDAY IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Our Lexington area clergy are partnering together to offer **The Imposition of Ashes to mark the beginning**

of Lent. Clergy will be in various places in the uptown area throughout the day on **Wednesday, February 17th. At 9-11:00AM, 12-2:00PM, and 5-7:00PM, there will be 2 stations near 1st Baptist, 1st United Methodist, and 1st Presbyterian churches and 1 station near 1st Reformed UCC / St. Stephen United Methodist where you may receive the Imposition of Ashes either in your car or by walk up.**

We will collect prayer requests and donations to Davidson Crisis Fund. Outside, Covid Protocols will be in place.

LENT 2021: OUR WILDERNESS STORIES

The season of Lent begins with Jesus in the Wilderness, where he faced tremendous struggle. We all have found ourselves in the wilderness at various points in our lives. Have you gone through a season when you felt parched or broken, hopeless or lost? A time of wilderness or weary wandering? What gave you a sense of hope or renewal? Who helped lift you up? How did you move out of the struggle?

Would you be willing to share your own experience of the wilderness in our online worship service during Lent? If so, please let me know at elizabeth@frucc.org Sharing our stories is a powerful ministry and lets others know they are not alone when walking through tough times.

2CFAR - CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH AND RACE MEETINGS

You are invited at **noon each Tuesday through February** as we listen to the **Voices of the 2CFar People of Color.** During the Zoom call, folks who are part of our Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race will share their experiences and stories around race. The mission of these listening sessions is to learn about the past and the present so that we may work toward a future of reconciliation in Lexington and Davidson County.

Time: Tuesdays @ noon

Link to Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 Passcode: 222495)

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Morning Bible Study begins a new series on February 21st . The theme is: **"REND YOUR HEARTS: CLAIMING THE PROMISE."**

So, why practice the season of Lent? Maybe there is more to Lent than the suffering that we have endured during the past months of physical distancing and pandemic lock-down? Maybe there is more than the reflection and analysis that we are prone to do during the Season of Lent. So, what is the end of this season? Why do we have this period of preparation, of fasting, and self-denial, of repentance and confession, of putting our spiritual house in order?

Lent is about embracing the Resurrected One with a whole and longing heart. Lent doesn't have to be a somber time; but to be effective, it needs to be intense. It needs to be taken seriously and rigorously, so that we can bring our full selves to the table. We are enabled to embrace the fullness of the promise of Resurrection and live as disciples of Jesus Christ. So, despite feeling as though we have been in a year-long season of Lent, we need this season; we need the observance to open us to all that God has in store for us. Rend your hearts, so together we can claim the promise.

First Sunday in Lent – February 21st

"This is the Sign"

Genesis 9:8-17

Second Sunday in Lent – February 28th

"Walk Before Me"

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Third Sunday in Lent – March 7th

"All These Words"

Exodus 20:1-7

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 14th

"Look Up and Live"

Numbers 21:4-9

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 21st

“Written on the Heart”

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Palm/Passion Sunday – March 28th

“The One Who Comes”

Mark 11:1-11...Mark 14:1-15:47...Isaiah 50:4-9

A SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION TO THE SLAVES

Everyone is invited as part of Black History Month, on **Sunday, February 21st at 2:00PM**, to the 2nd Annual *Service of Commemoration to the Slaves buried on this site by their Slave Masters* at the Lexington City Cemetery on the State Street side. Led by Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly and sponsored by St. Stephen United Methodist Church, clergy and laity, there will be participation from the Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Association and Lexington Community Ministers Conference.

Since this event is in-person, please social distance and wear a mask.

WNCA 2021 SPRING EDUCATIONAL FORUM

Join the annual WNCA Spring Educational Forum with a focus on “Emotional Sustainability” as part of their WISE initiative. The keynote speaker is Jan Remer-Osborn, PhD. MM. MDIV who will speak on **Building Blocks of Emotional Resilience: Surviving a Pandemic**. Topics include...

- With God, all things are possible!
- Enhancing your core strengths to survive and adapt.
- Calling on your best mind to respond to challenges.
- Limiting Catastrophic thinking.
- Self-coaching: turning up the positive.
- Accepting change, improving your flexibility.
- Tenacity and Perseverance.
- Using Mindfulness to Gain Perspective.
- Social support: Can't live well without it!
- Yes, You Deserve Compassion!
- Take-home exercises to practice.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MARCH 2nd!

[Click Here For More Info & To Register](#)

[Click to Download Agenda](#)

JAMES H. LIGHTBOURNE, JR. SCHOLARSHIP

The James H. Lightbourne, Jr. scholarship application was established to assist needy and deserving high school graduates and college students, who are members of the United Church of Christ in the Southern Conference, to achieve their educational goals. Each applicant must submit the most recent copy of his/her high school or college transcript. Current high school graduates will be considered first, then college freshman, then upper classmen. **The due date for application form and transcript must be by the March 1, 2021.**

Download the James H. Lightbourne, Jr. scholarship application [HERE](#).

VERNON GASTON (V.G.) PRICE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Vernon Price was a man with accomplishments in many fields of endeavor, yet the things most dear to him were very simple – his family, his faith, his students and his town. For this reason, his family has requested that a scholarship be established in his name and that the recipients of the award encompass the ideals held most dear by V.G.

Criteria:

The scholarship is open to any member of First Reformed United Church of Christ, or student from the Lexington City or Davidson County School Systems. **The application and attachments are due MARCH 31ST.** The recipient will be chosen by May 1st of his/her senior year in high school. Presentation will be made at the student's Senior Award's Day. The recipient must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA throughout his/her junior and senior years in high school, demonstrate good citizenship, and be an active member of a church.

The selection committee will consist of three members of the Price/Bowie family, the minister, and a member of the Board of Trustees from First Reformed United Church of Christ.

To obtain an application, you may stop by the church office to pick up a hard copy, email the church office for a copy to be emailed to you, look for a copy in the February 2021 copy of the church newsletter, or click [HERE](#) for a copy.

INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN WORSHIP SERVICES

We invite you to take part in our worship service by reading Scripture or saying a prayer. We will provide the Scripture text and easy instructions for recording yourself with your device at home. If you would like to read in worship service, please click on this Sign-Up Genius link to sign up for a Sunday: [Worship Reader](#).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

If you happen to miss a week of our worship services and other events that are shared on our Facebook and YouTube pages, they will remain on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)'s history, so you may go back to watch any time.