

BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140

February 11, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

**Celebrating 209 years of Faithful Service to Our God
Transfiguration of the Lord**

We Enter Into God's Presence

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

L: This is the day that the Lord has made

P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

THE PEACE

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

“SURELY THE PRESENCE”

Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: On a high mountain, Jesus was transfigured, *Matthew 17:1-2, 5*

P: and God said: This is my Beloved Son.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah; and in the voice from the cloud you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us, with Christ, heirs of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN: 13 “The Mighty God with Power Speaks”

1 The Mighty God with power speaks, and all the world obeys;
from dawn until the setting sun, God's wonder earth displays.
The perfect beauty all around from Zion's height, shines forth;
and stars across the firmament so brightly beam their worth.

2 God comes not with a silent form, but riding on the winds;
before God's face, the raging storm its blasts of thunder sends.
All hail the Judge, in bold array, whose promise is to bless;
who sees our sins, yet also feels our thirst for righteousness.

3 The heavens declare your justice, Lord, as endless as the sky;
against the taunts of disbelief, our God will testify.
Receive my heartfelt gift of thanks, as honor to your might;
refresh my faith with each new day; protect me through the night.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Jesus said: Nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything
secret that will not come to light. *Luke 8:17*

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin as we pray together saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory,
but we turn away, distracted by our own plans. We confess that we
speak when we should listen, and act when we should wait.**

**Forgive our aimless enthusiasms. Grant us wisdom to live in your light
and to follow in the way of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord
and Savior.**

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: The one who calls light out of darkness now shines in our hearts to
reveal the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 4:6*

**P: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!
Amen.**

***RESPONSE: "Gloria Patri"**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

We Hear God's Word

SPECIAL MUSIC: 192 "Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining"

1 Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the

midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me.

REFRAIN: Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow; Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light

2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance; by the blood I may enter your brightness. Search me; try me; consume all my darkness. Shine on me, shine on me.

REFRAIN

3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness; ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me.

REFRAIN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

God of shining splendor, your voice makes the earth tremble in wonder. Overshadow us with your Spirit so that we may hear your Word and live as faithful disciples and covenant people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

PSALM: Psalm 50:1-6

¹ The Mighty One, God, the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to where it sets.

² From Zion, perfect in beauty,

from Peter's point of view. Peter has been identified as Jesus' right hand man; he is part of the inner circle of Jesus' friends. He is one of the trusted disciples and feels that he has a place of honor at Jesus' side.

Peter is pretty content with the way things are going. He has seen the crowds grow in number as Jesus has preached in the various communities. Peter has listened as the people talk about Jesus, asking if he is the Messiah. Peter has seen the support of the people for Jesus gain momentum and Peter is happy to be in this place and in this time, right here, right now with Jesus.

So when Jesus invites those within his inner circle to go with him to the mountaintop, Peter expects that he will be included, no questions asked. Peter looks forward to the times that the inner circle retreats away from the crowds. In times like this those within that circle have Jesus all to themselves. It is always a time that recharges Peter's battery and helps him prepare for all of the work he and the other disciples will do as they follow Jesus.

Can you imagine Peter's surprise when at the top of the mountain the group watches in amazement, as Jesus' clothes become whiter than white, dazzling the eye. The inner circle was there to see the likes of Moses and Elijah casually chatting with Jesus. How incredible and overwhelming to the senses it must have felt!

Yet, Peter also recognized this moment was life changing and he wanted to stop everything, every movement forward to be able to process what was happening. So Peter says, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Peter was frightened of what these men, these prophets of God being here now meant and so he wanted to pitch some tents and hunker down. Peter was trying to maintain his comfort level not moving forward or backward – just staying put. However, that was not meant to be. Peter's desperate attempt to maintain the status quo was shattered when he heard the voice of God claiming Jesus as the beloved Son of God with the directive to listen to Jesus along with the sudden and inexplicable disappearance of Moses and Elijah. Peter's balloon of complacency and comfort had popped and things were now destined to dramatically change.

You know, it is easy to understand Peter's situation from a human point of view. When things are going well for us, we really don't want them to change. We want to pitch our tent and hunker down and try to keep things as they are, but that never really works does it? No matter how much we want things to remain the same, they are always changing.

Situations, decisions of people in our lives, and people who are indirectly in our lives impact us and change the world around us. Let's face it, while it doesn't always feel like change is always good, change will happen. Because of the certainty of things changing, we can learn respond to change differently. There are great things that can happen when we are able to shift our point of view and look at the world in a new way.

How many times have you suffered through a situation thinking that the world was going to come to an end? Or a time when something really great occurs but it requires that we make drastic changes, like switching jobs or moving. We all have had those types of experiences. And yet, with prayer and patience, you know that Jesus is walking with you and you persevere. Then six months to a year later, things have gotten so much better and you can look back and see how important it was for that major shift in your life to occur. You would not be where you are now without the difficulties of change you had to face.

Once again our savior can relate to us because he also had to change. Jesus did not hunker down and stay on that mountain top with his dear friends, Moses and Elijah along with his inner circle of disciples. No, Jesus was transfigured, transformed in front of his closest companions so that they too, could begin to grasp that things would be changing. They were being prepared to see that the suffering Jesus would face would ultimately be for the greater good of all of creation.

The challenge for us today is to prepare ourselves for the inevitable change that will come to each of our lives. Our eyes have been opened to recognize that Jesus can understand the change that we will face, whether it is good or bad. We have the sure and certain hope that Jesus, the Beloved Son, will walk with us in every moment our lives. May each of us learn to truly put our trust in Jesus.

We Respond with Thanksgiving

***HYMN: W&R 245 “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”**

1 We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place, where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace. Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain, searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

2 Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word, Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet: Christ, with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

3 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline, we, like Peter find it tempting to remain and build a shrine. But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess, that our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Excerpt of *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

OFFERING (Please remember to mail your offering to Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church, 9602 Murdoch Goshen Road, Loveland, Ohio 45140)

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

JOYS & CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION – (Please send your joys and concerns to the church email and we will publish them in the weekly ENews)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Blessed is the Lord our God, who revealed the law to Moses.

The Lord our God is holy!

Blessed is the Lord our God, who has spoken through the prophets.

The Lord our God is holy!

Blessed is the Lord our God, who came to us in Jesus Christ.

The Lord our God is holy!

The one who spoke and called light out of darkness now shines in our hearts.

The Lord our God is holy!

The one who comes and does not keep silence now speaks in our midst.

The Lord our God is holy!

Now we have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Lord our God is holy!

In the face of Jesus Christ, the wondrous will of God is revealed.

God of glory, transform this world.

Holy One, as you are well pleased with Christ, help us to live in a way that will be pleasing to you. As you have called us to listen to Christ, help us to always heed his word and seek his will.

Great God of dazzling beauty and overshadowing majesty, in Jesus Christ, your beloved, we glimpse the image of your glory. Teach us to listen to him so that we may hear your voice and follow your holy way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the one who taught us to say as we pray,

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.

We are Sent Out to Love and Serve

***HYMN: 409**

“God Is Here!”

1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in the honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd’s flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day’s dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Charge and Benediction

Go out into the world in peace. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Alleluia!**

As you go out, know that you take with you the love of God, the grace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ and the *awesome* power of the Holy Spirit.

Choral Amen

Postlude

**Stand either in body or in spirit*

Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, February 7, 14, 21 & 28, 11:30am –
Lunch and Learn**

**Saturday, February 10, 9am – Essentials of Spiritual
Health**

**Sunday, February 11, following service – Living
Churches Initiative Team**

Monday, February 12, 6pm – Session

**Wednesday, February 14, 4:30pm – Soup Supper
followed by Ash Wednesday service at 5:30pm**

**Saturday, February 17, 9am-3pm – Presbytery of
Cincinnati Gathering, Union Presbyterian Church,
Union, Kentucky**

**Sunday, February 18, following service – Officer's
Training**

Wednesday, February 21, 8:30am – Men's Breakfast

**Sunday, March 3 – Ordination and Installation of
Officers**



BETHEL MURDOCH
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Church Contact Information

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Loveland, Ohio 45140

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We believe that our mission is to:

Bring people to Jesus.

Equipping them for ministry

Teach them to love God and others

Heal the brokenhearted in loving family community

Enjoy God and each other

Live worshipful lives