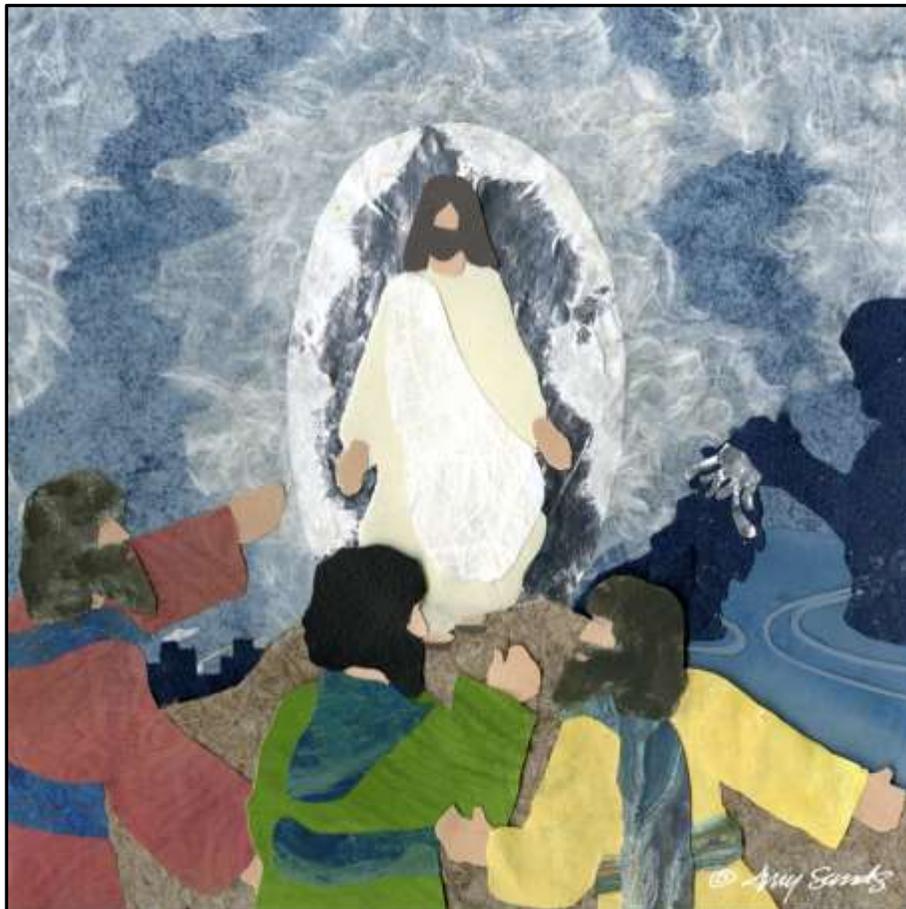


*First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
River Falls, Wisconsin*

*February 11, 2018*



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

9:00 & 10:30 AM

*“TRANSFIGURATION”  
“SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY”*

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Transfiguration is a long fancy word that means ‘change appearances.’ In today’s focus lesson, Jesus’ appearance is changed before his disciples’ eyes. At first, the disciples were so overwhelmed by the power of this mountain-top experience they wanted to stay and build a shrine. Jesus, however, knows that part of living involves moving through the temptation to stay where we are and moving toward the new things the Living God is creating all around us. What new things is God calling you towards?

Welcome to our guests who are visiting  
with us today!  
Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall  
between the 9:00 & 10:30 worship services.

- ~The Nursery is available for young children.
- ~Church Mouse activity bags are available for children.
- ~Large print bulletins and hearing impaired devices are available from the ushers.
- ~Please stand when noted by the \*
- ~Congregation responses are in bold.

*No matter who you are. No matter where  
you are on your spiritual journey, you are  
welcome here!*

*As Jesus’ courageous disciples,  
living God’s grace, we strive to:*

- ~ *Worship faithfully*
- ~ *Welcome openly*
- ~ *Grow spiritually*
- ~ *Care passionately*
- ~ *Serve generously*

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** Searching for home,

**P:** **Here God will meet us.**

**L:** Longing for warmth and encouragement,

**P:** **Here the fire of God’s presence will warm our souls.**

**L:** Looking for a place to be ourselves,

**P:** **Here we shall find acceptance in Jesus Christ.**

**L:** Yearning to find someone who cares,

**P:** **Here we shall experience a community kindled by the Spirit.**

**L:** Hoping for a joy stronger than gray, cold mornings and long, dark nights,

**P:** **Here we shall sing and lift up our voices in song.**

**All:** **Come let us worship the God who leads us into life!**

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

*Refrain*



Shine, Je - sus, shine, \_ fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry,



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, \_ set our hearts on fire;



flow, riv - er, flow, \_ flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy,



send forth your word, \_ Lord, and let there be light.

*Fine*



1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing  
2. Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence  
3. As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness,



in the midst of the dark - ness shin - ing;  
from the shad - ows in - to your ra - di - ance;  
so our fac - es dis - play your like - ness;



Je - sus, Light of the World, shine up - on us,  
by the blood I may en - ter your bright - ness,  
ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
search me, try me, con - sume all my dark - ness.  
mir - rored here may our lives tell your sto - ry.



Shine on me, shine on me.  
Shine on me, shine on me.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*D.C.*

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, we are running so fast, and we don't know how to slow down. We keep our calendars filled. We constantly check our voice mail, our e-mail and stay connected by smart phone and internet. We are busy and yet not satisfied. We are moving faster, but we never catch up. Is this the way you meant us to be? Speak to us once again your message of peace, of walking beside still waters, of refreshing our souls. Speak to us again of your care for the birds of the air and the children at play. Speak to our anxious hearts and spinning minds that think if we are not doing, then there is no being. Restore our balance, lighten our driven-ness, and make holy our rest. Amen.

## **\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: God says, "There is nothing you can do to make me stop loving you."

P: **When the truth of those words breaks through, we are transformed.**

L: "You are accepted and loved as you are. You don't have to carry around the burdens of the past."

P: **We are a new creation through the powerful presence of God's constant love.**

L: In Christ we are forgiven.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

L: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

P: **And also with you.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** (Please greet one another with signs of peace)

**\*GLORIA**

*"Amen"*

(Led by the Choir)

*Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Chancel Choir**

**TIME WITH CHILDREN (10:30 am)**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**SONG OF BLESSING (10:30 am)** (Children preschool through grade 8 may go to Sunday School. Worship bags and children's bulletins are available in the back.)

*Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,  
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! Still today, walking with me on my way,  
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Romans 8:18-25**

**PSALM 31:19-24** (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

*R*

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

**L:** O how abundant is your goodness that you have laid up for those who trust you, and accomplished for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of everyone!

**P:** **In the shelter of your presence you hide them from human plots; you hold them safe under your shelter from contentious tongues.**

**L:** Blessed be the LORD, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was beset as a city under siege.

**P:** **I had said in my alarm, 'I am driven far from your sight.' But you heard my supplications when I cried out to you for help.**

**L:** Love the LORD, all you his saints. The LORD preserves the faithful, but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily.

**P:** **Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD.** *R*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 9:28-36**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

\*HYMN

*"Beautiful Savior"*

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
robed in the flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
bright in the spar - kling stars on high;  
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
than all the an - gels in the sky.  
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

## **\*STATEMENT OF FAITH (South Africa)**

- L: It is not true that this world and its inhabitants are doomed to die and be lost;
- P: This is true: “for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him shall not die but have everlasting life.”**
- L: It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction;
- P: This is true: “I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”**
- L: It is not true that violence and hatred shall have the last word, and that war and destruction have come to stay forever;
- P: This is true: “for to us a child is born, to us a son is given in whom authority will rest and whose name will be Prince of Peace.”**
- L: It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil that seek to rule the world;
- P: This is true: “to me is given all authority in heaven and on earth, and lo, I am with you always to the end of the world.”**
- L: It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can do anything;
- P: This is true: “I will pour out my spirit on all people, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions, and your old folk shall dream dreams.”**
- L: It is not true that our dreams for the liberations of humankind, our dreams of justice, of human dignity, of peace, are not meant for this earth and this history;
- P: This is true: “The hour comes, and it is now, that true worshippers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.”**
- All: This is the faith we confess. This is the faith we believe. This is the faith that will set us free to follow in the steps of Jesus. Amen.**

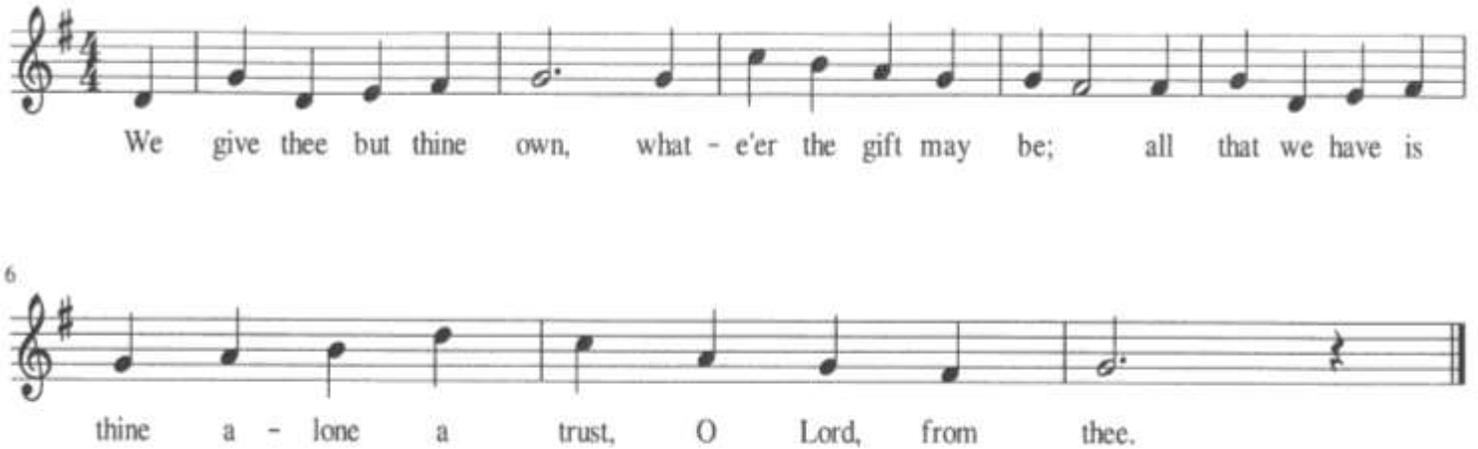
## **THE PRAYERS & LORD’S PRAYER (debts/debtors)**

**...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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY

(As we offer our gifts today, ask yourself the question: "What is God trying to do in your life now?")

### *"We Give Thee but Thine Own"*



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the offertory, with lyrics: "We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be; all that we have is". The second staff begins with a measure rest marked '6' and contains the melody for the second line of the offertory, with lyrics: "thine a - lone a trust, O Lord, from thee."

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, we seek the transformation of the world, but we fear the change it could bring to our own lives. Grant us the trust and courage to acknowledge your gracious reign among us. Take these gifts as symbols of our desire to genuinely love our neighbors as ourselves. May they be used to build a better world, where your love and salvation are known by all.

## \*HYMN

*"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"*

#182

## \*COMMISSIONING

Confident of God's love, leave this place to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Bring hope to those who are overwhelmed, peace to the stressed and overburdened and grace to all. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord your God. **Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

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*Assisting in today's worship service are:*

<b>Ministers:</b>		<i>The Whole Church</i>
<b>Liturgist:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<i>Carole Mottaz</i>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<i>Midge Kees</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>		<i>The Beatty Family</i>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<i>Bill &amp; Martha Olson, Bernice Larson</i>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<i>Dan Herum, Evelyn Purdy, Matthew Myers</i>
<b>Welcomers:</b>		<i>Debi Bauer, Diane Welsh</i>
<b>Nursery:</b>		<i>Sheila Peterson</i>
<b>Organist:</b>		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
<b>Rover:</b>		<i>Duane Church</i>
<b>Trustee:</b>		<i>Randy Welsh</i>
<b>Counters:</b>		<i>Bob Ferguson, Marie Roe</i>
<b>Among Friends Coordinator:</b>		<i>Norma Revels</i>
<b>Music Coordinator:</b>		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
<b>Choir Director:</b>		<i>Scott Perau</i>
<b>Bell Choir Director:</b>		<i>Ross Fugl</i>
<b>Church Moderator:</b>		<i>Neal Prochnow</i>
<b>Church Secretary:</b>		<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
<b>Youth Pastor:</b>		<i>JaNae Westrich</i>
<b>Minister for Community:</b>		<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
<b>CE Minister:</b>		<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
<b>Senior Pastor:</b>		<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>



One of the great joys of programming at First Congregational is how intergenerational friendships are nurtured.

**First Congregational UCC, 110 N. Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022**

**Tel: 425-2052 Email: [office@firstchurchr.org](mailto:office@firstchurchr.org) Fax: 425-9800**

- Sun., Feb 11
- 8:00 am - Music Practice
  - 9:00 am - Worship Service
  - 9:00 am - Adult Forum
  - 10:00 am - Coffee Fellowship
  - 10:30 am - Worship Service
  - 10:45 am - Sunday School
  - 11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast
  - 11:30 am - Youth Event – Ice Skating
  - Newsletter Deadline
- Tues., Feb 13
- 9:00 am - Yoga
  - 9:00 am-3:00 pm - Among Friends
  - 1:00-2:30 pm - Bible Study
  - 7:00 pm - Cribbage
- Wed., Feb 14
- Ash Wednesday
  - 3:45-5:15 pm - Wednesday School
  - 5:15-6:15 pm - Family Meal
  - 6:00-6:30 pm - Jubilee Ringers
  - 6:00 pm - Spirit & Health Meeting
  - 6:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Worship Service
  - All Confirmation Classes
  - 7:00-8:00 pm - Chancel Choir
  - 9:00 pm - Worship Service on Channel 16
- Thurs., Feb 15
- 9:00 am - Yoga
  - 12:00 pm - Worship Service on Channel 16
- Sat., Feb 17 10:00 am-12:00 pm - AED/CPR Class
- Sun., Feb 18
- 8:00 am - Music Practice
  - 9:00 am - Worship Service
  - 9:00 am - Adult Forum
  - 10:00 am - Coffee Fellowship
  - 10:30 am - Worship Service
  - 10:45 am - Sunday School
  - 11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast
  - 11:30 am - Youth Event – Mini Golf

**Please remember the following in your prayers this week:**

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Wayne Petersen, Audrey Johnson (mother of Linn Lawrence), Avis Thompson (Alice Hanson's sister), Dale Purdy (husband of Evelyn), Janine Schulze (Dale Olson's sister), Steve (brother in law of Carole Mottaz), Rae and Mike Farley, Linda (friend of Angie Burke), Barb (sister of Sue Simonet), Neal Prochnow, Delores Herum (mother of Dan Herum), Allan Brown, Ashley Lukens (Barb de Souza's granddaughter), Carolyn (mother of Paula Tiede), Lou Ann Tadych (mother of Dean Grisar), Nancy (sister of Bobbie Kuhn), Barb (sister of Susan Walden), Margaret Wesson, Finley Budensiek born months early at 2 lbs, 15 ounces (niece of Sheila Peterson), Bob Johnson, Davey Keatley, Doug Hoffman

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the Chancel Choir leading us in joyous song this week
- For those leading the Ash Wednesday worship this Wednesday & the Wednesday Lenten services at 6:30 pm
- For Committees and Council who meet next week that they may help us all grow as disciples of Jesus
- For our choir and other choirs getting ready for the It Takes a Village Concert next Sunday at 4:00 pm
- For Ruth and her five month old baby, Itzel, our newest asylum family who arrived recently
- For the Wellhaven seniors group that they may experience the warmth of joy of community

Prayers for our world:

- For a safe Olympics that might bring us closer together as a human family
- As we celebrate Valentine's Day we pray that all may experience God's love for them
- For our confirmands (grades 6-9) that they may see themselves as gift by God
- For snowbirds and those traveling (fleeing? 😊) to warmer climates that they may enjoy their time away
- For those who have been abused that they may find hope, healing and peace
- For our nation that we might heal our Partisan political divisions and work justly to solve our real problems
- That we all might be better stewards of God's creation

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For Church Council members who served and clean up after the Annual Meeting meal last Sunday
- For those organizing the Indoor Mini Golf Event on Sunday, February 25, that it may bring us winter joy
- For sunny days that are growing longer
- For Bentley Fuller, born February 7 to Farnum and Kayla Fuller
- For Jennifer Syverson, Mary Church and our many youth volunteers who help at Wednesday School
- For all those who work on church teams & committees, teachers, mentors, singers and volunteers. Bless you!
- For the Wednesday Night Family Meal program and those who make it possible. Sign up!
- For those who are providing coffee fellowship this week (could you provide this in the future?)

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Audrey Alton Black who died this week and whose Memorial Service will be March 19
- For the family of Anna Grace, mother-in-law of Laura Miller, who died at Comforts of Home recently
- For those who are grieving including the Walden, Wells, Black, Grove and Morrow families, that God may comfort & strengthen them

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please see the pastor  
or use the blue prayer cards in the pews or on the back sign-up table.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 8:18-25**

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 9:28-36**

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.