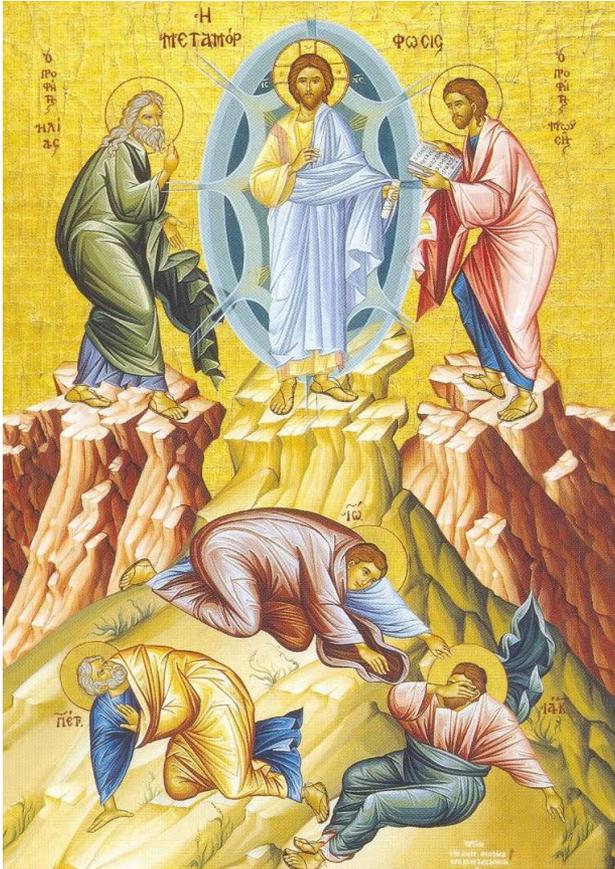


Pilgrim United Church of Christ



February 11th, 2018 The Last Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Nathaniel Craddock, Interim Pastor
David Ralphs, Choir Director & Organist

4418 Bridgetown Road, Cincinnati, OH 45211
Office: 513-574-4208 — pilgrimucc@fuse.net
Web: www.pilgrim-ucc.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Please stand as you are willing & able at points marked by an asterisk, and join in the congregational responses that are printed in **boldface**.*

Prelude *Oh See the Wondrous Light* E. Pepping

Introit & Chime *Festive Call to Praise* Martin

* Opening Hymn, no. 176 *Sing of God Made Manifest*

* Call to Worship

One: Gathering in this sacred place
we anticipate new wonders each week.

**All: Wherever two or three are gathered to worship,
a holy spirit is present.**

One: Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love and wondrous joy
waiting to be revealed, even this day, even in this place.

**All: We will want to linger and camp in this sanctuary but when
we leave today may our hearts be open to all the wonders of
God's beautiful world.**

* Confession & Assurance of Pardon

One: God, we tend to linger too long by the waters, and on the
mountain tops, enthralled with the glory that flows from you.
When we fail to listen to your voice, leading and guiding us, you
shake us from our contentment and send us forward endowed
with your power. So, we confess our sins with bold humility:

**All: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness
in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

One: We turn to you, O Christ; forgive, restore, and strengthen us.

**All: We renounce evil; We claim your love; We choose to be made
whole.**

Pastor: Hear the good news: in the life, death, and resurrection of
Jesus Christ, we learn that God's love has no bounds.
Therefore, as a called, ordained, and authorized minister of the

Church of Jesus Christ, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins and your empowerment through the Holy Spirit to begin anew.

All: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Please share a sign of God's peace with those around you.

Greeting & Announcements

* Affirmation of Faith, no. 359, & the Collect

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray:

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading: 2 Kings 2.1-12 (NRSV)

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Reader: Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Psalm 50.1-6, responsively by whole verse

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken;
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God reveals himself in glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence;
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.

**He calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of his people.**

"Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."

**Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause;
for God himself is judge.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever; amen.

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 4.3-6 (NRSV)

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Reader: Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Anthem

Great is the Lord

arr. Pethel

Gospel Reading: Mark 9.2-9 (NRSV)

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 any more, 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. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

Affirmation of the Word

Blessed Are They That Hear Dale Wood

The Sermon: *Seeing God Face to Face*

Rev. Nate Craddock

* Hymn of Response, no. 182

Transform Us as You, Transfigured

Offertory

Dream Song

Ute Traditional

*Great Doxology & Offertory Prayer, no.46
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise God all creatures here below:
 praise God above, ye heavenly host;
 praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, & the Lord's Prayer (Spoken)
**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who
 trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
 from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory
 forever. Amen.**

Response to Prayer, no. 599

Day by Day

* Closing Hymn *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*
We will sing this new hymn to the familiar tune NETTLETON
(which you may know as Come, Thou Fount)

Praise the One who breaks the darkness
 with a liberating light;
 Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
 Turning blindness into sight.
 Praise the One who preached the gospel,
 Healing every dread disease,
 Calming storms and feeding thousands
 With the very bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children
 With a strong yet gentle word;
 Praise the One who drove out demons
 With a piercing two-edged sword.
 Praise the One who brings cool water
 To the desert's burning sand;
 From this well comes living water
 Quenching thirst in every land.

Praise the Living Love Incarnate,

Christ, who suffered on our part—
 Him, who died and rising raised us
 from Death's claim upon our hearts.
 Let us sing ablaze with gladness
 Seeing what our God has done.
 Laud the One who writes our Story;
 Hail the One who makes us one.

(vv. 1 & 2, Rev. Rusty Edwards; v. 3, Rev. Nate Craddock)

* Benediction & Alleluia, no. 106

*At PUC, our custom is to join hands as we sing the Alleluia to end our
 worship and begin our witness in the world.*

Postlude

O Lord of Life

Healey Willan

LIFE AT PILGRIM

February 11th, 2018

Leading Our Worship Today

The Rev. Nathaniel Craddock, Interim Pastor

David Ralphs, Organist & Choir Director

Jim Esmail & Tom Matthew, Lay Readers

Ushers: Val Brandt, Dick Gilbert & Greta Pfaff

Greeters: Amber & Peyton Tenhundfeld

Lock-up: Bud Rullmann

**Pilgrim United Church of Christ is proud to be an Open and
 Affirming Congregation. No matter who you are or where
 you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!**

Welcome to all who are here for the first time, and all who are here for the first time in a while! We are truly grateful you chose to be here today. Kindly fill out the Welcome Card in your bulletin and place it in the offering basket. **If you are interested in making Pilgrim UCC your church home, please talk to Pastor Nate: puccpastor@fuse.net**

LENTEN PREACHING CYCLE 2018: SOIL & SOUL

During the season of Lent, which lasts from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the death & resurrection of Jesus anew. This is a springtime of faith, and our preaching cycle this year will focus on the **covenants**, or special promises of relationship, that God has made with us which become the gardens in which our souls grow to maturity. **Please share the word**—we can be place a where strangers become guests, guests become friends, and friends become fellow travelers on Jesus' journey.

**Join us next week and invite a friend for Part I:
The Sign of the Rainbow**

Bible Boulevard for the children is offered on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month for our kids to have a space of their own to worship God through playing and learning. **Today, kids are invited to stay in worship with the grown-ups!** Activity packs are available in the front entry (the Narthex).

Youth Group & Confirmation will meet **today at 4:00pm**. Youth from fifth through twelfth grade are welcome to join us! Youth preparing for confirmation (Confirmands) are reminded that they need to turn in their **Confirmation Covenants**.

Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast: As one last big celebration before the beginning of the austere season of Lent, our pancake breakfast today will have a Mardi Gras flair! Join us for king's cake, sparkling cider, and festive pancakes as we bid *adieu* to Epiphany and begin to make ready for Lent. We will raffle off a sampling of wines made by our resident *sommelier*, Denny Schmidt, to raise funds for our mission and ministry.

Interim Focus Group: Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in our monthly **interim focus group**. We are focusing on practicing healthy communication skills while listening to the way God is calling us to be a Pilgrim UCC for the 21st Century. The next session will occur on **today** immediately following the Pancake Breakfast. **All are welcome!**

Ash Wednesday: Please plan to join us at 7:00PM on Wednesday, February 14th to begin our Lenten journey with a time of prayer, forgiveness, and marking ourselves with ashes to signify our commitment to this time of preparation to welcome the Risen Christ at Easter.

Lenten Soup Supper & Discussion: On Wednesday nights at 6:30 during Lent (beginning February 21st and ending on March 21st), please plan to join us for our annual Lenten Soup Supper & Discussion series! We'll share in a light soup and salad meal (with vegetarian options) and Pastor Nate will be teaching and leading a conversation on the UCC Statement of Faith. **All are invited—and are encouraged to bring a friend!**

The Lenten Meal Schedule is:

Feb 21	Lay Life & Work
Feb 28	Board of Stewards
Mar 7	Council
Mar 14	Board of Christian Nurture
Mar 21	Board of Governors/Mission & Outreach

We are Grateful for your Presence, Gifts, and Witness!

Last Week:

Attendance.....	39
Average General Fund Income Needed per Week.....	\$3,709
Average Rec'd per Week to Date.....	\$3,761
Offering.....	\$2,614
Other Income	\$800

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover illustration: Icon of the Transfiguration of Christ, tempera and gold leaf on panel. Scripture passages quoted from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Liturgy adapted from the UCC Book of Worship, the Book of Common Prayer 1979, and UCC Worship Ways.

This Week at Pilgrim:

Sunday, 11 Feb	10:00am	Worship/Boy Scout Sunday
	11:00am	Pancake Breakfast
	11:30am	Interim Focus Group
	4:00pm	Pilgrim Youth Group

Monday, 12 Feb	7:00pm	Board of Governors
Wednesday, 14 Feb	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Svc. Overeaters Anonymous
Thursday, 15 Feb	7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop 288
Friday, 16 Feb	10:00am	Overeaters Anonymous
Sunday 18 Feb	10:00am	Worship/Installation Sunday
	4:00pm	Pilgrim Youth Group

PRAYER LIST

Amy Abell	Debbie Hafer	Terri Mason
Steve Andres	Joe Hagedon	Mason Family
Mike Armstrong	Hartung Family	Pamela Moorhead
Gerry Baker	Mike Havoc	Neil Parsons
Joe Baker	Brandon Hawkins	Kurt Phillippo
James Bell	Candy Hoekstra	Alma Jean Robertson
Bob Brewsaugh	Brian Hoffman	Garfield Rodden
Kurt Brookbank	Maria Hubbard	George Siddall
Linda Brown	Cathy Hunt	Mike Siveley
Mark Calloway	Diana Hunter	Clara Spreen
David Carpenter	Stephanie Kleiner	Brittany Stacey
Bill Case	Joellyn Lam	Jen Sullivan Family
Flaig Family	Troy Lewis	Reeta Tomazic
Jay Frickman	Glenna Littrell	Victor Vick
Gegner Family	Len Marquez	Tom Woods
Alberta Grimm	Tom Martin	
Cheryl Gunn	Bill Martz	

New Pastoral Care Phone Number: In order to better serve the congregation and the community, a new Pastoral Care contact number has been established. If you are in need of Pastoral assistance and the office is not open, you may call **513-549-1641**. When you call, it will ask for your name and then route your call to either Pastor Nate or a designated in-house care person should Pastor Nate be unavailable. Feel free to distribute this number to anyone and keep it handy should you need assistance.