



# Grace First

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor  
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor  
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 14, 2021

Transfiguration of the Lord

## Welcome and Announcements

Thank you for joining us in worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church. Let us lift up our voices in song and prayer that we may be refreshed so that we may walk in the newness of life.

## Prelude

arr. Clay Christiansen

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

## Call to Worship (Responsive)

The glory of God shines like a consuming fire.

**We have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

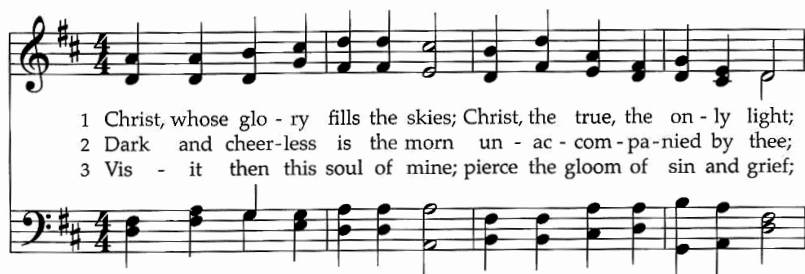
The voice of God thunders like a mighty storm.

**Out of the cloud, God speaks: This is my beloved son; listen to him!**

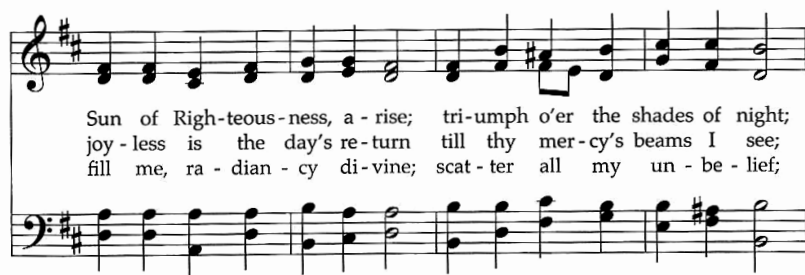
## Prayer of Invocation

Holy and almighty God, gather us among your faithful ones, the people of your covenant, to stand in the light of your glory and listen for the word of the Lord, Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.

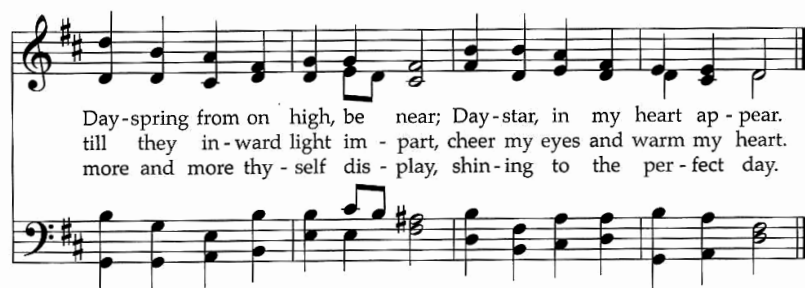
# 662 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy - less is the day's re-turn till thy mer-cy's beams I see;  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di-vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1740

MUSIC: German folk melody; adapt. Johann Werner, 1815; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847

RATISBON

7.7.7.7.7

**Children's Moment**

**The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz**

## **Call to Confession**

God alone is righteous; God alone is perfect; God alone is judge. Yet this holy, righteous God comes to us in love. Rejoicing in God's grace, let us confess our sins together praying together the prayer of confession in the bulletin followed by your own silent prayers.

## **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**God of all glory, beauty, and grace, we have tried to hide from you—to hide our face, to hide our sin—yet you have never hidden your love for us. We have tried to search for you—in temples, in clouds, on mountaintops—yet you have already revealed yourself to us in the face of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, and transform us so that our lives may shine with your glory, beauty, and grace.**

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Our God comes and does not keep silence; God speaks to us with grace and love, saying: You are my beloved child. This is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Speak to us, O Lord our God, and let the first of your Spirit burn brightly in our hearts. Open our minds to receive the wisdom of the law, the hope of the prophets, and the life of the gospel: Jesus Christ, your living Word. Amen.

## **First Reading**

**2 Kings 2:1-12**

The word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God**

## **Music Ministry**

Everett Titbcomb

“Behold Now, Praise the Lord”

Sanctuary Choir, 2010

Behold now, praise the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.

Ye that by night stand in the house of the Lord,  
even in the courts of the house of our God.

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.

Behold now, praise the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.

Praise the Lord!

## **Second Reading**

**Mark 9:2-9**

The word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon**

**The Rev. David Slyter**

# 193 Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain



1 Je - sus, take us to the moun - tain, where, with Pe - ter,  
 2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com -  
 3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis -  
 4 Take us to that oth - er moun - tain where we see you  
 5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as -

James, and John, we are daz - zled by your glo - ry,  
 pan - ions saw? Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there  
 ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the voice from heav - en!  
 glo - ri - fied, where you shout - ed "It is fin - ished!"  
 cend - ed Lord, can - not help but tell the sto - ry,

light as blind - ing as the sun. There pre - pare us  
 fills us with the self - same awe. Clothed in flesh like  
 says of the In - car - nate Word, "Lis - ten, lis - ten,  
 where for all the world you died. Hear the stunned cen -  
 all that we have seen and heard; say with Pe - ter,

for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.  
 ours you go, matched to meet our dead - liest foe.  
 ev - ery - one: this is my be - lov - ed Son."  
 tur - i - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"  
 James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

Some version of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9/Mark 9:2-9/Luke 9:28-36) is always read on the last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this text that foretaste of Christ's glorification helps to prepare Peter, James, and John for their roles as proclaimers of "God's beloved Son."

## **Affirmation of Faith (Unison)     The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Prayer for the People and 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.

## **Call to Stewardship**

The God who speaks and summons the earth into being now speaks to us, calling us to offer up our lives as a sacrifice of praise.

## **Offertory**

Douglas E. Wagner

"Sing a Little Song of Praise"

Carol & Cherub Choir, 2010

## Congregational Response Hymn 606 Old Hundredth

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.

### Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the light of love around us and the fire of faith within us. As we go forth from this place let our lives reflect the One who is the image of your glory: Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

## 192 Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining Shine, Jesus, Shine

Capo 2: (G) (C) (G) (D) (G)  
A D A E A

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

(C) (G) (D) (C) (D)  
D A E D E

midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the  
shad - ows in - to your ra - diance; by the blood I may  
fac - es dis - play your like - ness; ev - er chang - ing from

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The guitar part includes a capo 2 fret and a series of chords: G, C, G, D, G, C, G, D, G. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, with the first line corresponding to the first system of music and the second line to the second system. The lyrics are: '1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the', '2 Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the', '3 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our', 'midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the', 'shad - ows in - to your ra - diance; by the blood I may', 'fac - es dis - play your like - ness; ev - er chang - ing from'.



(Bm7) (Em7) (C) (D) (Bm7)  
C#m7 F#m7 D E C#m7

World, shine up - on us; set us free by the truth you now  
en - ter your bright-ness. Search me; try me; con-sume all my  
glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our lives tell your

(Em7) (F) (Dsus) (D) (F) (Dsus) (D)  
F#m7 G Esus E G Esus E

bring us. Shine on me; shine on me.  
dark-ness. Shine on me; shine on me.  
sto - ry. Shine on me; shine on me.

*Refrain* (G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am7) (C) (D7) (C) (D)  
A E F#m D A Bm7 D E7 D E

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

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (Am/G) (F) (D7sus) (D7)  
A E F#m D A Bm Bm/A G E7sus E7

Blaze, Spir - it, blaze; set our hearts on fire.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am7) (C) (D7) (C) (D)  
 A E F#m D A Bm7 D E7 D E

Flow, riv - er, flow; flood the na - tions with grace and mer-cy.

Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

While the reference to Jesus as the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) can be understood generally, this hymn is perhaps best understood as a response to the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–8/Mark 9:2–8/Luke 9:28–36). This is the most popular of the author/composer's many songs.

TEXT and MUSIC: Graham Kendrick, 1987  
 Text and Music © 1987 Make Way Music (admin. Music Services)

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE  
 Irregular

## Benediction

## The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you**

## Postlude

*St. Anne*

arr. H. Alexander Matthews

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Liturgy taken from: Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion,  
 Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1  
 Cover Art: Duccio, di Buoninsegna, d. 1319



MATTHEW 25

## **Matthew 25 in the PC(USA):**

A bold vision and invitation

### **We are a Matthew 25 church!**

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

- Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed
- Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color
- Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor

To learn more and for ideas on how to get involved and do your vital part as a member of a Matthew 25 church, please visit **[pcusa.org/matthew25](https://pcusa.org/matthew25)**.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**