

The CHURCH of the COVENANT

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018, 10:00 AM

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

**All who are able are invited to stand.*



THE MCGAFFIN CARILLON

GEORGE LEGGIERO, Carillonneur

PRELUDE

Toccata in F major, BuxWV 156

DIETERICH BUXTEHUDE

Jonathan Moyer, organist and director of music

WELCOME

THE REV. MELANIE MARSH BAUM, Associate Pastor

STATEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Covenant Eights

* CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

INTROIT

Psalm 46

JOHN L. BELL

The Covenant Choir

Be Still and Know That I Am God.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

MINDY STEWART, Director of Family Ministries

ONE: Come, listen to the One

ALL: who speaks and summons the earth.

Come, see the One

who shines forth in beauty.

Come, offer thanksgiving, the sacrifice that honors the One

who reveals the love of God.

* HYMN 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

* CALL TO CONFESSION

OMAR SIDDIQ, Lay Worship Leader

* CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have never wavered in being our mentor, despite our failings and blindness to your path. Forgive us when we lack the fortitude to follow your leadership outside of these walls. Every day you are ready to mentor us, to forgive us when we ignore you and focus on our own selfish needs and desires. Jesus was sent to be the light we all follow, yet that path is difficult for us. Help us to follow, listen, and learn. God grant us the strength of your spirit to guide us in this world and let us be a beacon for you to others. We ask for your forgiveness as we silently confess our sins.

* PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: God already knows all of our sins but as we sit here today and confess them we acknowledge those sins to ourselves and to God. With our sins acknowledged God is ever loving and freely grants forgiveness. Friends, hear the good news.

All Voices: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven

* GLORIA PATRI

HYMN 579

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.**

**or Maker

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

2 KINGS 2:1-12

ANTHEM

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL, ARR. ANDRÉ THOMAS

Swing Down, Chariot

The Covenant Choir

Oh, swing down chariot, stop and let me ride, Oh, rock me Lord, calm and easy, I've got a home on the other side.

Well, Ezekiel went out in the middle of the field. He saw an angel workin' on a chariot wheel. He wasn't particular 'bout the chariot wheel. He just wanted to see how the chariot feels.

Well, Ezekiel went down and he got on board. The chariot went a'bumpin' on down that old road. He wasn't particular 'bout the bumpin' of the road. He just wanted to lay down his heavy load.

Swing down, chariot...

Well, a sinner, he went out to the middle of the field. And then he started workin' on a chariot wheel. He wasn't so particular 'bout workin' on that wheel. He just wants to see how a chariot feels. Then an angel saw the sinner workin' hard there in the field, And said, "Hold on, believer, Ezekiel rides that wheel. The chariot will swing on down the old bumpy road.

The chariot's the place to lay your heavy load." Swing down, chariot...

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

MELANIE MARSH BAUM

While all children are more than welcome to remain in the service, we have a nursery for infants through pre-kindergarten children. Ask an usher for directions.

PARTING RESPONSE

HYMN 535 ~ TALLIS' CANON

All are invited to sing as the children kindergarten through 7th grade depart for Sunday School. Families may pick up their children at 11:45 am in the education wing.

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

SECOND LESSON

MARK 9:2-9

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Terrified

THE REV. AMY STARR REDWINE, PASTOR

* HYMN 306

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS HYMN

JOYS AND CONCERNS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

KEVIN J. LOWRY, Chaplin to Students

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION, AND PETITION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☞ **THIS WEEK AT COVENANT:** **Tuesday:** Staff Meeting, Office, 9:30 am; Bible Study, Library, 11 am; Classrooms to Corporations, Sonia Golden Room, 6 pm; Bereavement Group, Herrick Room, 6 pm; Ministry of Faith Formation, Office, 7:30 pm; **Wednesday:** Connection Center open, 12-5 pm; Twelve Steps to Freedom, Beckwith Hall, 5:30 pm; Classrooms to Corporations, Sonia Golden Room, 6 pm; Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary, 7 pm **Thursday:** Connection Center and Student Food Pantry open, 12-5 pm; Theology on Tap, The Jolly Scholar, 5:30 pm; Connect (college student meal and fellowship), Living Room, 5:30 pm; Handbells, Conference Room, 6:30 pm; Choir, Choir Room, 7:30 pm; **Friday:** Lower Level Meeting; Library: 10 am; Connection Center open, 12-5 pm; Restore Yoga, Creche, 4 pm; **Saturday:** Guitar Society Ensembles, Choir Room, 9:30 am; Saturday Tutoring, Lower Level, 10 am.

☞ **OUR LAY WORSHIP LEADER** is Omar Siddiq, Omar grew up in Strongsville and attended St. Edward High School. He went on to law school in Washington D.C. at American University. He came home intent on making a difference and for the past ten years has been serving as a prosecutor helping victims get justice. Currently he works at the City of Cleveland. In 2015 he married Jill and they decided to find a shared faith and community. Upon finding the Church of the Covenant they felt at home and quickly became members. Omar is an avid Cleveland sports fan, a board game enthusiast, and plays disc golf when the weather allows.

☞ **ADULT FORUM TODAY** Today begins our Lent education series, "Going Out". This Sunday we welcome partners from North Church, who will give us some insight into community life at their church and what we can expect when we go out to worship and fellowship with them next Sunday, February 18th. Join the conversation at 11:30 in Beckwith Hall.

☞ **MUSIC NOTES:** The transfiguration narrative brings together Old and New Testament figures in a miraculous display, reflected in many musical settings. The story of the prophet Elijah inspired two famous spirituals: "Ezekiel Saw the Wheel" and today's anthem, "Swing Down, Chariot." André Thomas wanted to personalize Elijah's story through his composition. We hear this first in the "me" statement: Swing down, chariot, stop and let me ride; in other words, get me out of here! Thomas also wanted to emphasize the promise of another home, meaning a place in heaven. He notes, "The slave was fixed on having this other existence, for it brought comfort, encouragement, even optimism" (2007). The disciples' heavenly vision of the transfigured Christ is mirrored in Alice Parker's setting of the beloved Irish hymn "Be Thou My Vision." In an effort to use inclusive language, the stanza "Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise" is modified in our hymnal to, "Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise." Our service concludes with a Jean Langlais' majestic setting of the *Te Deum* composed in 1934.

☞ **WE PRAY FOR** Judy Bourne, Andrew Bullen (Melanie Marsh Baum's cousin), Akeya Clark (Marie Jones' niece), Anne Wombwell deConingh, Marlene Finkenthal (David Finkenthal's mother), Eliseo Hairston (Shirley Thompson's grandson deployed to the Pacific), Greg Madison, Mollie Hoar (family friend of Gene and Diane Papp), Elizabeth Mierke, Ward Porch, Sue Salvator, Liam Stewart and Emilee Stewart (Mindy Stewart's nephew and sister), Connie Brand, and Louise Wolfoale. We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, or are homebound; the patients, family, and staff in our surrounding hospitals; and those who have placed prayer requests in our Carpenter's Box.

☞ **BELIEVING GOD CALLS US TO BE PEACEMAKERS**, each month we pray for people affected by gun violence, marked by the tolling of the tower bell. Since a gunman opened fire at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012, killing 26 people, 20 of them children; 909 people in Cuyahoga County have been killed by guns. Since last month, 16 more individuals have died by gun violence in Cuyahoga County. The names of those at least 18 years of age are: Marla Kay Hammel, Caleb Javier Olan, Martinus Gregory Sanders, Steven Louis Csire, Robert Peacock, Julianne Rosemarie Fischbach, Michael Ryan Fischbach, Alex N. Hatrick, Renee Lynn Mur, Thomas Edward Yatskop, Teon Dayvon Webber, Shaylamar, Walter Gilmore, Nicole Sherise Thorpe, James Dowell, John Justin Gnatowski, and Benjamin Clyde White. Seven died by suicide.

☞ **SESSION UPDATE** At the January 24 meeting of session, elders spent time in small groups considering how innovation applies to the church; discussed a report from the Audit Committee; heard a report from the Personnel Committee regarding the senior pastor's annual review and approved a recommendation to present changes in the pastors' terms of call to the congregation; and, after discussing the experiment of holding the reception in All Saints' Chapel on Jan. 14, agreed to occasionally hold receptions in this location with additional logistical support for the deacons.

