



# First Congregational United Church of Christ February 11, 2024



## Transfiguration Sunday

Partners in Ministry: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: **Rev. Enno K. Limvere**

Musician: **Linda Noble** Choir Director: **Linda Noble**

Peace Candle Lighter: **Carol Winter** Liturgist: **Bruce Tyler**

Greeter: **Barbara Chiles** Usher: **Gwen Mattice**

Coffee-Hour Host: **Mardi Gras Potluck**



Photo by Robson Hatsukami Morgan

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**Gathering Music**  
**Words of Welcome**  
**Prelude**

**Opening Hymn** Imago Dei ([click here](#))

**Words of Prayer** Prayer by Cole Arthur Riley from “Black Liturgies”

**God who moves, Let joy make a home in this flesh. We confess that in our activism and pursuit of justice we can become so serious, so emptied of play, that we become one-dimensional and stagnant. Shake us from within. Help us to remember the greats, those who showed us what resistance looked like on the dance floor, those who made time to have fun. When we hear the music, send the beat to restore us, bass pulsing through us and in us, connecting us to one another. When we move and dip and sway, let us remember we have agency over these bodies, freedom in these hips. We don't have to obey. Help us listen to ourselves, our intuition, and let our bodies do what they need to do. Let all our movement be a holy signal that we are still here, alive and in rhythm. Amen.**

**Time of Dancing** “Tripped Out Slim” by Trombone Shorty

**Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace**

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

**Where Does the Dance Begin, Where Does It End?**

by Mary Oliver

Don't call this world adorable, or useful, that's not it.  
It's frisky, and a theater for more than fair winds.  
The eyelash of lightning is neither good nor evil.  
The struck tree burns like a pillar of gold.  
But the blue rain sinks, straight to the white  
feet of the trees  
whose mouths open.

Doesn't the wind, turning in circles, invent the dance?  
Haven't the flowers moved, slowly, across Asia, then Europe,  
until at last, now, they shine  
in your own yard?

Don't call this world an explanation, or even an education.  
When the Sufi poet whirled, was he looking  
outward, to the mountains so solidly there  
in a white-capped ring, or was he looking  
to the center of everything: the seed, the egg, the idea  
that was also there,  
beautiful as a thumb  
curved and touching the finger, tenderly,  
little love-ring,  
as he whirled,  
oh jug of breath,  
in the garden of dust?

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## Passing of the Peace

**Hymn** Nothing Can Separate Us ([click here](#))

**Scripture Reading** – Mark 9:2-9:8 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Transl.)

**2** Six days after that, Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. And there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes. **3** The clothes Jesus wore became dazzling white – whiter than any earthy bleach could make them.

**4** Elijah appeared to them, as did Moses, and the two were talking with Jesus.” **5** Then Peter spoke to Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “how wonderful it is for us to be here! Let us make three shelters – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!” **6** Peter did not know what he was saying, so overcome were they all with awe.

**7** Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and there came a voice from out of the cloud: “This is my Beloved, my Own, listen to this One.” **8** Then suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore – only Jesus.

**Children’s Message** Listen...

**Choir** I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

**Message** Your Light Shines

**Musical Reflections**

**Communion Hymn #347** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ ([click here](#))

**Communion**

**Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

**News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community**

**Our Time of Giving**

**Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God, for all that love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

**Closing Hymn #182** We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding ([click here](#))

**Benediction**

**Sending Music**



# Announcements



**Prayer List:** The Family of Bob Lohn, The Family of Nancy Cihlar, Rhonda Silence, The Family of Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, The Carter Family, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Congo, Ukraine, Sudan, Isreal/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

**At home and Care Center:** Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, and Tom Hedstrom.

## **Measure of our Faithfulness:**

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2024 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2024, showing a need for a yearly income of \$175,834.

After five weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$16,907.12. The actual donations and income have reached \$39,196.13.

## This Week at the Church

### **Sunday, February 11**

9:30 AM – Choir Practice

#### 10:30 AM – **Transfiguration Sunday** –

This is the story of Jesus going up the mountain with Peter, James, and John to talk with Elijah and Moses. The light that shone through Jesus that night shines through us today, maybe not in dazzling white, but in ways that show God's love and we are all God's beloved. Come to church in your dazzling clothes as we are having a **Mardi Gras potluck** after worship.

2:00 PM – Worship at Care Center

### **Monday, February 12**

11:00 AM – Spring Forest Qigong

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM - Food Shelf

Al-Anon is taking a break until March

### **Tuesday, February 13**

9:15 AM – Cook County Sheriff  
Chaplains

1:00 PM – ASTR Meeting with Building  
and Grounds Committee

2:00 PM – Narrative Lectionary Study

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

2:00 – 4:00 PM – ASTR meeting with  
community groups

6:30 PM – Town Hall with ASTR:  
*Everyone is welcome!*

### **Wednesday, February 14**

**Happy Valentines Day!**

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

5:30 PM – Pizza and Social Justice

7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday Service

### **Thursday, February 15**

10:00 AM - Tai Chi

12:00 PM - Women's AA

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons

3:30-5:30 PM – Cook County Public  
Health (Media Room)

### **Friday, February 16**

7:00 AM - AA

8:00 AM - Harbor Watch

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons

7:30 PM - AA

### **Saturday, February 17**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Piano Lessons

10:30 AM – Surely Discipleship Group

### **Sunday, February 18**

9:30 AM – Choir Practice

10:30 AM – **1st Sunday in Lent** – Up to Jesus comes a young man, who is earnest and wanting to do what is right, wanting to inherit eternal life. Jesus saw him and loved him, but realized there was something else that person loved more than the Kingdom of Heaven.

Fellowship to Follow.

## Opening Hymn **Imago Dei**

Imago Dei, Imago Dei,  
Born in the Image of God are we.  
Imago Dei, Imago Dei,  
Called to Compassion; Born to be Free.

1. How shall we live as images of God?  
How best reflect the wonder of our maker?  
Humbly we will walk, with mercy respond and  
know the Essence of Love is always with us.

2. How shall we love the neighbor filled with greed?  
How best respond to those consumed by hatred?  
Look beyond the fear the keeps them from knowing  
the abundance of Love that's always with us.

3. Then shall we see the images of Christ.  
Then shall we know that God is in our neighbor.  
Humbly we will walk, with mercy respond and  
know the Essence of Love is always with us

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## Hymn **Nothing Can Separate Us**

Nothing can separate us from  
the deep, deep love of God.  
Not trials or temptations,  
from the deep, deep love of God.

1. In times of deepest sorrows, when all joy seems lost and gone,  
Christ stays our true companion, we are never left alone.
2. If God our judge is for us, then who can stand against?  
Christ Jesus laid his life down, our way to make amends.
3. God's love: the ground we walk on, God's love: the air we breathe  
God's love: the simple sunshine, God's love: our own heartbeat.

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## Communion Hymn #347 **Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

1. Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy.  
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*Refrain:* Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2. Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and indeed express.

3. Jesus call us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!

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## Closing Hymn #182 **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.

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