

WORSHIP SERVICE
FEBRUARY 11, 2024, 10:00AM
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

PRELUDE

Worthy!

Mark Burrows

Cherubs, Spirit Singers, Joyful Noise

*HYMN #12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to worship God,

People: Who creates us and loves us;

Leader: Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

People: Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;

Leader: Who inspires children, youth, young adults, and people of all ages,

People: To seek justice, share power, and live together in love and equality;

Leader: Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,

People: And whose presence, grace, and love sustain us in our living.

Leader: We gather to worship God.

All: To God be all glory, honor, and praise!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We pray that You, O God, will bring a greater love for all people into our hearts and minds, into our plans and actions, and into our hope and prayers. Break the silence of prejudice, the isolation of ignorance, the false sense of security in earthly fortresses, and

erase the fear that prevents communication. Help us to come home to Your love, by becoming one family on this planet we call home. Receive now the silent confessions of our hearts.

Silence

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We have seen the Light. We have heard the call. We have received God's forgiveness.

People: We will sing, rejoice and serve, in the Light. Praise God!

Leader: It is good news indeed, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Eleanor Daley

COMMISSIONING OF AMO MISSION WORKERS

Leader: We gather today to commission our adults to serve God as mission workers on the AMO mission trip. We celebrate this joyful and transformative moment in the life of this church and in the lives of our adults. Our mission of service, love, and hope will give us an opportunity to serve our fellow Christians and truly be the change we wish to see in the world.

Leader: We ask you now, as missionaries representing this church and serving in Jesus' name, do you promise to live, work, and pray together, and to love your neighbor as yourself, that you might selflessly serve the people of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

Missionaries: We do.

Leader: Members of this faith community, you have heard the promise of our AMO Mission Fish, who have answered God's call to service and transformation. Let us stand and covenant with them to support their mission.

***People: We gather to celebrate our joy in being partners with you in Christ's service and transformation. We promise to love and support you as you go out to work in God's name.**

Leader: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for this journey and guide you to do God's will. In the name of this congregation, I commission you to do this work, and pledge to you our prayers and support.

ANTHEM

Be a Light!

Mark Hayes

Cherubs, Spirit Singers, Joyful Noise

All Children through Grade 7 recess to Church School

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 9:2-9

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Becoming Jesus"

Marianna Kilbride

SERMON RESPONSE

The Lord Is My Light

Jacques Berthier

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a congregation, we pray together – through word, silence, and
The Lord's Prayer (sins)

PRAYER RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

Marty Haugen

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS AND CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

Fairest Lord Jesus

Joyful Ringers

James Klein

*DOXOLOGY (unison)

**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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #445

Be Thou My Vision

Verses 1, 2, and 4

Slane

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Carillon for a Joyous Day

Joyful Ringers

Douglas Wagner

*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to the Kennedys and Twomblys for hosting our fellowship time this morning. Please join us for coffee in Smith Hall immediately following the service.

The flowers in the Meeting House are given in loving memory of Jim Cole, by his wife Nancy.

ARE YOU VISITING OUR CHURCH TODAY?

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us! If you have questions about our church or wish to join us for our next new member class, please contact Courtney Flynn at (203) 594-1850 or welcoming@godsacre.org.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

ALL-CHURCH SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Thank you for joining us for a special Souper Bowl Sunday today. It's not too late for those who would like to donate non-perishable foods for Open Doors, a local housing and homeless service organization. Cars are parked in the circle with trunks open until 12:00pm.

Needed items for Open Doors include:

Soup (preferably chicken noodle)	Spices
Rice (preferably 2lb bags)	Coffee
Dried Beans (red or black)	Breakfast Cereal
Jelly (grape or strawberry)	Peanut Butter
Reusable Grocery Bags	Spaghetti Sauce
Can Openers (regular old manual kind)	Canned Tuna

ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, MARCH 3

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, March 3 at 11:15am in the Meeting House. The agenda is as follows: Deacon's: State of the Church, Trustee's Report, 250th Fund Request, Raymond Trust, and Nominating & Governance. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in this important conversation. A link to attend virtually will be sent on February 29. Contact Caroline Smittle, caroline@godsacre.org.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP, FEBRUARY 14

Join us at 8:00pm this Wednesday for our Ash Wednesday worship service in the Meeting House. We will mark the beginning of Lent, a season of preparation for Easter, with this traditional service that offers time for reflection, Communion, prayer, and penance. We emphasize the anointing with oil over the traditional imposition of ashes. We invite everyone to begin their Lenten journey with us for this service of worship, whether in person or via livestream.

BECOME A MISSION SPONSOR TODAY

We seek to raise \$75,000 to make our mission to Puerto Rico possible! 108 kids will embark on our February Mission Trip to serve and love thy neighbor. We will be partnering with *First Baptist Church of Río Piedras* to serve those brothers and sisters in need. This mission is only possible with the support of our congregation and YG Friends.

Will you please consider being a mission sponsor? Donations can be made online at www.godsacre.org/give

DEDICATE A FLOWER ARRANGEMENT FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Dedicate a floral arrangement to remember someone special who has passed away or who is celebrating a special birthday, anniversary, or graduation. Please contact Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org to choose a date and discuss color preference. A suggested donation of \$100 is greatly appreciated.

FEBRUARY PLATE OFFERING

The February plate offering will go towards Open Doors, a local housing and homeless service organization. With your support, we can help our neighbors on the path to housing stability.

LOST AND FOUND - SMITH HALL

Please take a moment after worship today to check the lost and found table in Smith Hall. We will be donating all unclaimed items at the end of February. started! See you in the Music Center at 11:15am today after church. Contact Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org with questions.

NEW PODCAST: PRACTICING WHAT JESUS PREACHED FOR LENT

Each weekday beginning Ash Wednesday through Maundy Thursday, Chapin will offer a podcast with reflections, questions, practices, and prayers, on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Take time to journey with Jesus this Lenten season, by striving to put what Jesus preached into practice. The podcast will be available on all major podcast platforms beginning February 14. Chapin's book, *Practicing What Jesus Preached* is available at the church, Elm Street Books, Wipf & Stock Publishers www.wipfandstock.com, and other online vendors.

PACIFIC HOUSE HOMELESS SHELTER – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once a month (every third Thursday), our church provides and serves dinner at the Pacific House Homeless Shelter in Stamford. Volunteers are needed to both contribute food items and serve a hot meal to approximately 60 men residing at the shelter. Contact Andy Parkin at andyparkin7@gmail.com for details on how to help.

SENIOR YOUTH DIRECTOR SEARCH

We are beginning the formal search for our next Senior Youth Director as Kelly Antonson prepares for ordination. We are seeking a compassionate, organized, and energetic leader with 4+ years' experience working with children to oversee our large and vibrant youth programs. If you, a family member, or friend are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please email hr@godsacre.org.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON CONTINUES

If you have not yet pledged, we hope that you will be able to make your commitment by our Annual Meeting on March 3.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CAKE AND COFFEE, MARCH 7

Please join us for cake, coffee, and camaraderie at the beautiful home of church member Malia Frame on Thursday, March 7, at 9:30am. We will serve coffee and light refreshments. Let us enjoy some fellowship time together. Invites will be in your inbox soon. Contact Lesley Cousley at lacousley@gmail.com to RSVP or if you would like to bake.

YOUTH MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

2/11 No MSYG (Grades 7-8), Happy Super Bowl Sunday!

2/12 YG (Grades 9-12), *Pilgrimage Prep, 7:00-8:30pm

***Please note the date change and that this is a covenant event**

2/13 JYG & Guppies (Grades 3-6), 4:30-5:30pm

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Marianna Kilbride

Director of Spiritual Formation

Dr. Michael Burnette

Interim Director of Music Ministries

Greer Lyle

Director of Children's Music & Drama

Peter Wilson

Stewardship Witness

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Mike Rodgers

We are a welcoming, inclusive, and compassionate church community where difference and diversity are valued. We gather to promote the love and knowledge of the God revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Redeemer and Friend, and welcome all to participate in the life of our church regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

We invite you to make your 2024 pledge today.

