



**February 11, 2024
Transfiguration Sunday**

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Pastor Larry

Prelude

Is This Not Bread?

Rudolph

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

***Call to Worship**

Meghan Walker

Why have you come to this place?

We have come to find Jesus.

Why have you come today?

We are tired in body and spirit.

Jesus bids you sit and be at ease.

We are hungry with nothing to eat.

Come and eat your fill.

But there are only five barley loaves and two fish.

There is plenty for all.

Will we find wholeness here?

Jesus gathers the fragments of our lives,
that nothing may be lost.

Opening Prayer

Meghan Walker

God of our hopes and dreams,
we are empty, and long to be filled;
we are hungry, and long to be fed;
we are lost, and long to be found.
Gather us into your love,
and pick up the pieces of our lives,
just as Jesus gathered up the fragments
of the five loaves and two fish
that remained after feeding the five thousand.
Call us anew to eat our fill
and to find our true nourishment in Jesus,
the bread of heaven. Amen.

* Hymn

Shine Jesus, Shine

TFWS 2173

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*Passing the Peace of Christ

Meghan Walker

Let us be known as children of the Most High by sharing our love with all as we pass the peace of Christ.

Children's Time

Pastor Larry

Ministry of Music

Deep Waters

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Meghan Walker

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone. Let the heavenly food of the scripture we are about to hear nourish us today in the ways of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen

John 6:1-15 and 6:32-35

6 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages^[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

6:32-35

³² Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴ "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

Break Thou Bread of Life

UMH 599

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Sermon

"The Bread of Life"

Pastor Larry

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God,

the giver of grain and bread,

and in Jesus Christ,

the bread of life broken for us,

and in the Holy Spirit,

God's nourishing power in every grain and loaf.

**I believe that Christ is to be leaven in us,
so that we may offer the bread of life
to the hungers of every human heart.**

Morning Prayer

Pastor Larry

Offertory Invitation

Meghan Walker

Through your awesome deeds, you light an inextinguishable hope in our hearts. Help our congregation to work together in new ways to tell others your amazing good news. May our tithes and offerings support your work through our outreach ministries. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

In His Keeping

Morris

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication*

Meghan Walker

Gracious God, as we remember Christ's transfiguration, we stand in awe of the glimpse of your glory revealed on the mountain. Just as Peter, James, and John witnessed the radiant presence of Christ, we, too, are transformed by your love and grace. As we offer our tithes and offerings, may these gifts reflect the warming light of your love in our lives. Just as Jesus was transfigured before them, may our hearts be transformed, and our actions reflect the love and truth Jesus embodies. Bless our giving and use it to bring your divine light to a world in need. In the name of Jesus, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

*** Closing Hymn**

Blessed Assurance

UMH 369

***Benediction**

Pastor Larry

***Choral Benediction**

Shalom to You

UMH 666

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.

May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

***Postlude**

My Life Is In You, Lord

Choplin

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

*Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
Shine on me, shine on me.*

Refrain

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory,
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire;
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy,
Send forth your word, Lord,
And let there be light.***

*Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness. **Refrain***

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story. **Refrain***

BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE

*Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord;
my spirit pants for thee, O Living Word!*

*2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.*

BLESSED ASSURANCE

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

Refrain:

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.***

*2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)*

*3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (Refrain)*