

March 6, 2011

## The Transfiguration Year A

### Welcome to Ellesmere United Church


Unit 160-8960 University High Street, Burnaby, BC, V5A 4Y6

If this is your first time with us, thank you for coming. Your presence is a blessing for us.

We hope you find a community for worship and a place for personal prayer.

If you have any questions about the order or nature of our community worship, feel free to ask your greeter today, the minister, or the people around you.

We want you to be comfortable and unburdened in our midst, and at peace in your experience of God in worship.

\*  Indicates the community standing as able.

@ Indicates the text the minister is reading and reflecting on this Sunday.

### **What's happening in Our Faith Community (from 10:45 until 11:00)**

#### **Thought for the Day**

Pretty speaks of Cosmetics and Trends but Beauty speaks of the Soul.

#### **Opening of Worship**

Leader: Today the Scripture speaks of the spiritual transformation of the disciples of Jesus that enabled them to see the presence of The Christ. (Lights Christ Candle)

Community: **The story tells of Jesus' change before their eyes and the appearance of Moses and Elijah.**

Leader: This was Matthew's way of saying that in the eyes of the Apostles Jesus now fulfilled all of their Scriptures – the Law and the Prophets, and prefigured our understanding of the Trinity.

Community: **Let the light of this one candle symbolize the Light of God, the Radiance of Christ, and the Dance of the Spirit through all time and all space.**

**Silent Prayer of Centering** (Let the sounding of the singing bowl lead you into a time of silent centering prayer and with its second sounding bring you back to community.)

### **Holy Greeting**

Minister: The grace of our Sovereign Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Community: **And also with you.**

♪ **Song MV #122 *This is the Day***

### **Prayer**

Minister: Here O People of God, our God is One, and we are called to worship God who we experience as Creator, as Christ and as Holy Spirit in the mystic dance of the Trinity.

Community: **Holy God, in your presence we remember those times in our lives when our hearts were passionate about our faith and the beauty thereof. And, were shone upon with the brightness of the newly baptized adorned in white.**

Minister: These memories are precious to us, O God, for there are times when the shadows seem to dominate our faith and our church, and we find it hard to radiant.

Community: **Help us, O God, to renew our faith and our belief in Christ. Aid us in understanding the challenges ahead to witnessing your guiding presence in the Church and in your world. For we ask this in the name of the One who was reshaped in our eyes and seen for the Christ that he was and is. Amen.**

♪ **Invitation to the Scriptures:**  
**MV #22 *God of All the World***

## Writings of the Early Church

@ 2 Peter 1:16-21

**Minister:** This is the witness of the Early Church.

Community: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 2** VU p. 725

**Read responsively with refrain sung at places marked 'R'.**

**Gospel:** Matthew 17:1-19

Lay Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Community: **Write these words on our hearts dear God!**

## Musical Reflections

**Theological Reflection** – You are So Beautiful Can't You See?

♪ Song: MV #136 *When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace*

## Invitation to Give

♪ **Song of Praise and Dedication**

*In gratitude and humble trust*

*We bring our best today*

*To serve your cause and share your love*

*With all along life's way.*

*O God, who gave yourself to us*

*In Jesus Christ, your Son,*

*Teach us to give ourselves each day*

*Until life's work is done!*

**Prayers of the Community** – Voiced and Silent

(If Voiced)

**Individual:** God hear our prayer.

**Community:** And in your love answer.

## Prayer of Jesus (Ecumenical Version)

**Our Father in heaven  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and  
The glory are yours, now and forever.  
Amen and Amen.**

♪ Song: MV #209 *Go, Make a Difference*

## Closing of Worship

Leader: Even Jesus had to descend from Mt. Tabor and the Apostles were forbidden from both staying in the moment and from telling anyone what they experienced on the mountain top. (Puts out Christ Candle).

Community: **The irony, O God, is that obviously they disobeyed Jesus but became faithful to Christ or we would not have the story to tell. Though I wonder if they told everything. Perhaps, O God, we are called to live in this tension between revelation, reformation, remembrance, and renewal.**

## Closing Blessing

♪ Choral Amen

