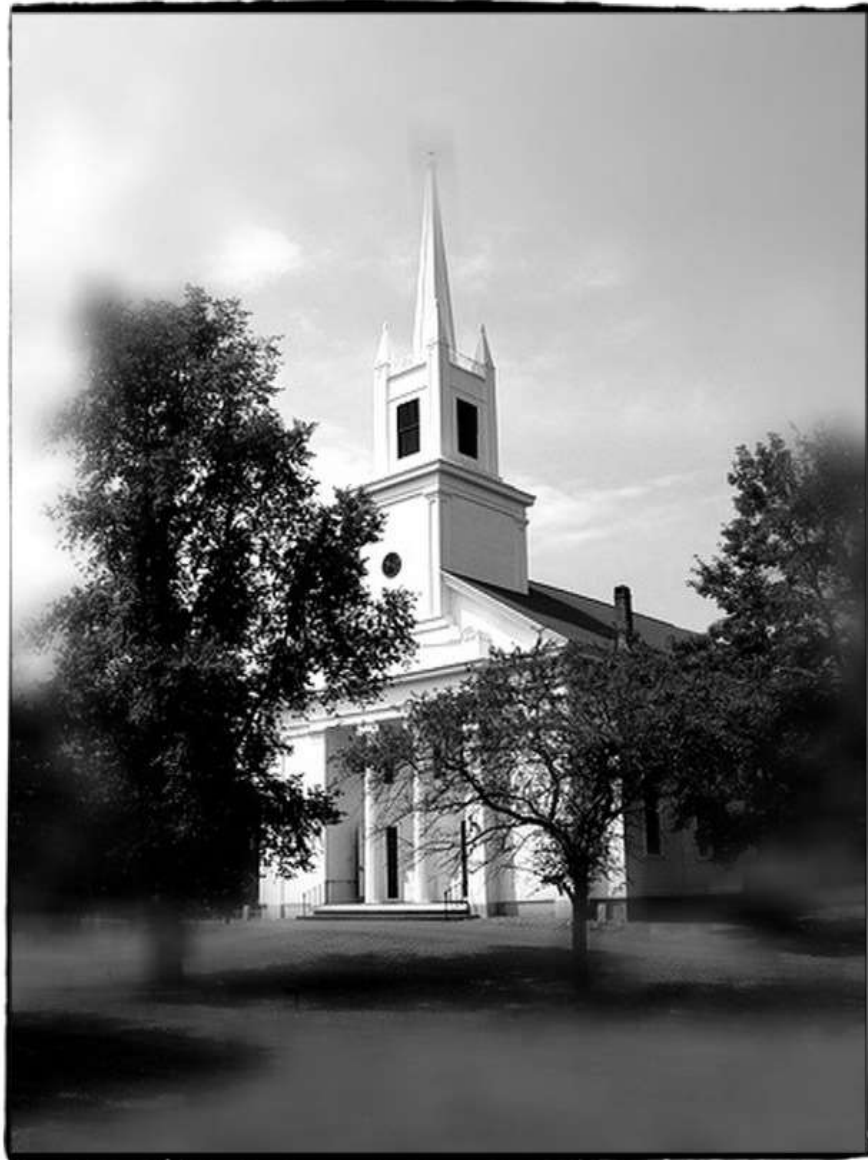


The Congregational Church
of
Topsfield

*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of
the United Church of Christ*



ORDER OF WORSHIP
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 11, 2024
9:30 am

PRELUDE "How Great Thou Art" Hine/Boberg

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Martin Riekert

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

OPENING HYMN "How Great Thou Art" O STORE GUD
Hymn #33 (CH) View page 4, verses 1 and 2

GATHERING PRAYER (UNISON): Lay Reader, Cathy Szymanski

O Holy One,
on mountaintops and valley floors
you reveal to us the light of your love.
Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory
of the divine presence.
With each encounter we are changed and transformed.
Draw us nearer
that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit.
Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.
May we walk among our brothers and sister as a blessing,
bearing light into dark places,
hope to displace despair,
and love that casts out hate.
Our world is hurting
and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely.
Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying,
... "listen to my Child, the Beloved!" Amen.

- The Rev. Madison Shockley, Carlsbad UCC.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY "Showers of Blessing" Whittle/McGranahan

†THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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**

*You may substitute God/Her **You may substitute Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHILDREN NOW DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL- (MEET IN THE NARTHEX TO BE BROUGHT OVER)

SCRIPTURE Luke 9:28-36 Lay Reader, Cathy Szymanski
View page 3

BELL ANTHEM "Holy Manna" Arr. Cathy Marker
Bell Choir

SERMON "Time To Go" Rev. Martin Riekert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS
SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION
PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts)

Our Father*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*You may substitute Creator/Mother/Maker, etc. as you choose in saying the prayer.

CLOSING HYMN "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" PROMISE
Hymn #638 (CH) View page 5, all verses

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Go to the Mardi Gras [in New Orleans]" Professor Longhair (H. R. Byrd)

Scripture Reading:

Luke 9:28-36 (NRSVUE)

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus^[a] took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah,” not realizing what he was saying. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen;^[b] listen to him!” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

VERSES 1 and 2

GOD
33

How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion

con-sid-er all the worlds thy hands have made,
 and hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the trees;
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing thun-der,
 when I look down from loft-y moun-tain gran-deur
 that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly bear-ing,
 Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion,

thy power through-out the un-i-verse dis-played,
 and hear the brook, and feel the gen-tle breeze;
 he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
 and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou art!

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God to thee:

how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

638

Unison

1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2. There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise; but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Congregational Church of Topsfield

Parish Care Ministry

Prayer List Contact:

Kim Itz at prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org or 978 887-6567.

Healing Scripture:

"And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick" Matthew 14:14

Healing Prayer:

Dear Lord, I ask you to turn this weakness into strength, suffering into compassion, sorrow into joy, and pain into comfort for others. May your servant trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the middle of this suffering. Let him be filled with patience and joy in your presence as he waits for your healing touch.

Please Pray For:

Maria Cecilia Guerra - Sister of José Guerra
Eva - Friend of Irina Günzel-Guerra from Norway
Doug McIlvaine - Member of CCOT
Doug Gruber - Brother of Susan Gruber
Jane Moyer - Member of CCOT
Ralph & Diana Titus - Members of CCOT
Sean Enos - Son of neighbor of Jane & Bruce Jones
Cheryl Hopkins - Member of CCOT
Brett Hoover - Grandson of Fred & Carole Hoover
Jennifer Smith – Friend of Martin & Christa in Vermont
Trish Hudson - Former member of CCOT
Kurt Nakanishi - Son of friend of Judi Gosbee
David Muisse - Nephew of Kim Itz
Jacob Itz - Son of Kim & Charlie Itz

Andrea Sommer & Family - Relatives of Irina Günzel Guerra
Mary Vernon Saunders - Cousin of Mary Jelinek
Mike Kinhan - Brother of John Kinhan
Joyce Talbot - Member of CCOT
Abby Bowling - Member of CCOT
Susan Gruber - Member of CCOT
John Kinhan - Member of CCOT
Phil Knowles - Father of Scott Knowles
GML - Friend of Judi & Gary Gosbee
Danielle Redding - Daughter of Christy & Jim Redding
Lynn Barnes - Sister in law of Jim & Barb Barnes

Our prayers of Love and Sympathy are with the Rogers Family as they mourn the loss of Tony's dad Paul Rogers.

Announcements:



Coffee Hour Update!

*Thank you to our Coffee Hour volunteers, the Read Family,
for providing Coffee Hour after service today in the Emerson Center Fellowship Hall.
Hope to have you join us!*



The Congregational Church of Topsfield February Birthdays

**Anne Clifton-Stoops: 2/12
Paul Worth: 2/15**



If you would like to have something posted in our InSpire newsletter, pertaining to a specific board, please email the designated Board Chairs:

**Trustees/Bruce Jones: bruce.jones45@verizon.net
Deacons/Jim Barnes: jhbarnes1@mac.com
Community & Communications/Nancy Nelson:
nbnelson21@gmail.com**

**Children & Youth/Christy Redding:
christyredding76@gmail.com
Mission & Outreach/Joe Gibbons:
joe.gibbons@verizon.net**

SERVING THIS MORNING

Polly Croteau, Carolyn Detato
Cathy Szymanski
Robert Knutsen
David Larson

*Altar Guild
Lay Reader
Head Usher
Usher*

Senior Minister
Martin Riekert, 978-887-2101
martin@topsfieldchurch.org

Music Director and Organist
Jackson Carruthers, 978-887-2101
jackson@topsfieldchurch.org

Communications and Office Manager
Kim Love, 978-887-2101
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Director of Children and Youth Ministries
Kim Love, 978-887-2101
kimlove@topsfieldchurch.org

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