



# First Parish of Westwood UCC

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Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, *Interim Pastor*  
Rev. Richard Edens, *Interim Pastor*

February 14, 2021  
Transfiguration Sunday

## Gathering

### PREPARATION

*In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness. The whole illusion of a separate holy existence is a dream. ....*

*I have the immense joy of being human, a member of a race in which God ... became incarnate. As if the sorrows and stupidities of the human condition could overwhelm me, now that I realize what we all are. And if only everybody could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.*

Thomas Merton, *Conjectures of A Guilty Bystander*, pp 140-142

### RINGING OF THE HOUR

Jesse Aguilar with Fina Aguilar

### WELCOME AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor

### CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

*Melodie*  
Thomasine Berg, flute

Arthur Foote

## Encountering the Word

### LESSON

Reader: Mary Masi-Phelps

Mark 9:2-9, NRSV

*Without the cross, resurrection is meaningless. And without both the crucifixion and resurrection, the identity of Jesus is incomplete. This scene at the center of Mark's telling of the good news follows (1) the revelation of Jesus as the Messiah, (2) Jesus' prediction of his suffering death and (3) the disciples' denial that the Messiah will suffer. Jesus' transfiguration is thus a foreshadowing or a glimpse of resurrection glory before moving into the story of Jesus' passion and death.*

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

### MESSAGE

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

>>> over >>

### PASTORAL PRAYER CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

*We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

Rowland H. Prichard  
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

*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.*

## Giving Thanks in Response to the Word

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

Until that day when we gather again in the sanctuary, please send your tithes and gifts for First Parish to the church office at 252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090.

## Sending

BENEDICTION

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

BLESSING IN MUSIC

*Go in Peace*

First Parish Choir  
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music



Transfiguration by Sócrates Magno Torres