

# First Presbyterian Church of Byron

February 19, 2012

Transfiguration Sunday

James Renfrew, Pastor

Elizabeth Weber, Organist



## PRELUDES

## INTROIT

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FIRST READING *Mark 2:1-12*

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Can you see what's been going on?

*You mean what's been going on with Jesus? For the last month we've been hearing one story after another about Jesus traveling from town to town offering healing to the sick. The crowds that gather around him are getting larger and larger.*

Just look at the story we've just heard. The crowd surrounding the house is so large that those four people carry their paralyzed friend up onto the roof, cut a hole, and lower him down to where Jesus is.

*It's a wonderful story, not just Jesus seeing the paralyzed man needing help, but also that he was moved by the faith of the four friends who brought him.*

As we gather at the Lord's Table we remember those four friends, and how wonderful it is to have friends in faith, the people we help when they need it, and the ones who help us when we need it. Jesus invites friends like these, friends like you and me, to the table to celebrate the love, care and peace of God.

*We hear Jesus' invitation and we're eager to gather at the table with him and all of our friends. Amen!*

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

## PRAYER OF APPROACH *(together)*

Dear God, as we approach your Son's table, we examine our hearts, our motivations, our beliefs and our behavior. Is our faith shallow or deep? Is our faith a fad or a long-term commitment? Is our faith centered on ourselves, or is it focused on others? Is our faith intelligent or emotional? Is our faith motivated by love or fear? It can take a life-time to sort out such serious questions, but the important

thing we acknowledge, as we approach the table, is that you welcome us and love to be near us as we wrestle with these and many other questions. The bread and cup are not offered to those who have it all figured out, but for those who are seeking and searching for answers in a confusing world. This is where Jesus meets us and where we meet him. God bless us as we gather at the Lord's Table. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S ABUNDANT FORGIVENESS

In Jesus Christ God offers the world an abundance of love, healing, forgiveness and peace. No matter how far from the path you may have strayed, Jesus is the first to look for you, to find you, and to love you. "I do not call you servants any longer ... but I have called you friends", he told his disciples ... and he says it to you! **Amen!**

## \*GLORIA #142 *"Gloria Patri"*

## TODAY'S WORSHIP THEME *"Friends"*

## \*PEACE OF CHRIST

*(In sharing words of peace, our hopes are rising!)*

## \*HYMN #

## PRAYERS OF HEALING & HOPE

*(We welcome your personal prayers. Please stand so everyone can hear you!)*

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

## \*DOXOLOGY

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(together)*

## SECOND READING *Mark 9:2-11*

## MESSAGE *"Friendship"*

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. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

## \*WHAT WE BELIEVE

\*HYMN #

\*BLESSING

\*RESPONSE #2241 *"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"*

\* = please stand, if able

## Announcements

Today: 9:45 AM Worship and Communion  
8 AM - 12 pm Ladies Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast at the Byron Fire Hall.  
Thursday: 7:00 PM Stewardship & Finance Committees meet  
Next Sunday: 9:45 AM Worship,

This morning we welcome members of the Hesperus Chapter of Eastern Star, Bergen, whose presence honors Marilyn and David Liles, Matron and Patron of the Hesperus Chapter. Marilyn and David have been members of the organization for thirty and twenty five years, respectively. Eastern Star is dedicated to community service, raising funds in support of breast cancer care and research, veterans and other needs. Next Sunday, February 26, there is a Chicken BBQ at the Hesperus Lodge, at the corner of Rt. 19 and Buffalo Street in Bergen, serving from noon until all gone. \$8.50 tickets available from David or Marilyn.

**Next Week:** Mark 2:1-12 - This story is about four friends, who upon seeing a large crowd outside of the home where Jesus is visiting, cut a hole in the roof of the house to lower their paralyzed friend down to him.



Rest Rooms are just beyond the door next to the pulpit.  
Hearing loops are available at the rear of the church.  
An elevator is located at the side entrance.  
Large print bulletins are available at the rear of the church.

POSTLUDE

## Mark 9:2-10 - Various Translations

Jesus probably spoke Aramaic, a Hebrew dialect. The Gospels were first written in Greek, a language widely used in commerce, government, and also the early Christian Church. Eventually, in Western Europe, the Bible was only available in Latin, the language of the Roman Catholic Church. Since mass printing was non-existent, Bibles were few and only found in churches.

During the Protestant Reformation efforts were made to translate the Bible into languages that people actually spoke. The first English version, translated from the Greek, was published in 1525 by William Tyndale (who was burned at the stake for his efforts). In 1611 the King James Version was published under the authority of the crown, and clearly depended on Tyndale's earlier work. The vocabulary and rhythm of the KJV has influenced English literature for four hundred years. With advances in printing technology Bibles became widely available.

Revisions of the KJV began to appear in the late 1800's, as ancient manuscripts were discovered and as advances in translation and knowledge of ancient languages were made. In 1952 the National Council of Churches published the Revised Standard Version (RSV) to incorporate new advances in Biblical scholarship. The New Revised Standard Version was published in 1989 as a successor to the RSV. One of the more interesting features of the NRSV is removal of most usage of the 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular ("thee", "thou", "thine"), which is now considered archaic in contemporary English.

In recent years there has been an explosion of English translations - some by committees of scholars, some by individuals, and some by denominations. Bible translation from Greek (New Testament) or Hebrew (Old Testament) involves a series of choices - shall the translation be word-for-word (often cumbersome in style) or a flowing style (paraphrased to make it more readable)? Should a word be translated exactly or understandably (for example "Joseph knew her not" is not as clear to the modern reader as "Joseph did not have sex with her"). Some translations, such as the Living Bible or The Message are paraphrases in which the translator tries to smooth out cumbersome writing by giving what he or she considers to be the essential spirit of the text. In every translation the culture, the experiences, the vocabulary, the beliefs, and the biases are evident, some more evident than others.

Bible readers might wish to have at least two Bibles on hand. One for easy reading and the other for study, and to frequently compare the two.

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And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves. And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead. **(KJV - King James Version)**

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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. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. **(NRSV - New Revised Standard Version)**

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Then came a cloud which overshadowed them and a voice spoke out of the cloud, "This is my dearly-loved Son. Listen to him!" Then, quite suddenly they looked all round them and saw nobody at all with them but Jesus. And as they came down the hill-side, he warned them not to tell anybody what they had seen till "the Son of Man should have risen again from the dead". **(J.B. Phillips New Testament - contemporary language)**

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Then a cloud appeared and covered them with its shadow, and a voice came from the cloud, This is my own dear Son—listen to him! They took a quick look around but did not see anyone else; only Jesus was with them. As they came down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has risen from death. **(TEV Today's English Version - written for youth and people learning English)**

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Just then a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud, a voice: "This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him." The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus. Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. "Don't tell a soul what you saw. After the Son of Man rises from the dead, you're free to talk." **(The Message)**

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**Prayers:** Praise God for the life of *James Slane* (his funeral service was held on Wednesday, with Memorial gifts directed to the church). *SSgt Jason Tomlin* (Afghanistan), *Airman First Class Matt Paine* (Japan, with Leanna), *Nelson Stamp* (continuing medical care), *Helen & Jim Moore* (doctor care), *Marian Shepard* (doctor care), *Arthur Dewey* (at Kirkhaven), *Jean Roda* (Westwood Commons), *Linda Engle* (doctor care), *Janet Pike* (doctor care), and *Peg O'Neil* (Kathy George's mother)

Thanks to the Platt family for the flowers in memory of *Tina Marie Platt*. It has been fifteen years since Tina's death.

Become a member of our **Prayer Chain!** Get added as a link by calling *Laura Platt* (548-2245) and we will notify you of prayer concerns in our church and community. You can also call Laura to add your own prayer.

Please support our **emergency food donation** box each week! Peanut butter, crackers, juice boxes, canned fruits and vegetables are always needed, as well as grocery bags. Food items are sent each week to the Emergency Food Shelf of Genesee County Churches United at the Salvation Army in Batavia. You may deposit items in the box at the back of the sanctuary, or in the grocery cart at the side entrance.

## **Church Officers & Staff**

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Tom Nesbitt

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