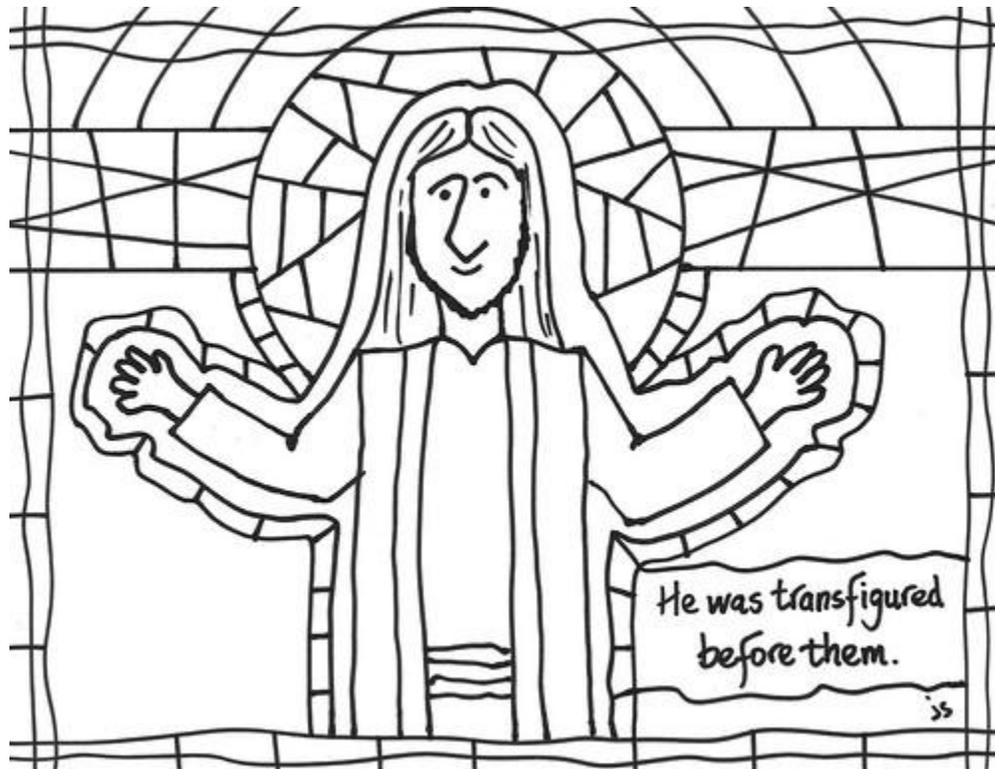


*First Presbyterian Church
Transfiguration of the Lord
February 15, 2026*



SHARE the amazing love of God	REFLECT the light of Jesus Christ	LIVE and serve joyfully in the Spirit's power
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Order of Worship

Welcome to Worship! It is a time of the church year called Lent, which begins this week Ash Wednesday. Tradition invites us to sacrifice something more than usual for these 46 days until Easter Morning. The purpose of this tradition is to help us become more aware of God's suffering in the person of Jesus. Is that old invitation too outdated today? Or -- Is it a refreshing and meaningful challenge to the pleasures we know and, in many cases, take for granted. Let us worship God!!! Today we welcome The Rev Dr. Skip Baker-Smith to our pulpit. Thank you for lending your talents to lead us in worship!

Choral Prelude

"You Are the Light"

Tom Fettke

Hymn 193

"Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

Responsive Litany

God reigns; let the people rejoice.

We praise You, O God, and worship at Your holy mountain for You alone are holy.

Let us worship God!

Corporate Prayer of Confession - followed by a time for silent confession

Mystery of mysteries, hide not Your face from us. Hear our confessions and forgive us of our sin.

We go to the mountain to escape our responsibilities. We hear Your voice, yet we often hide from Your truth.

Help us not to be afraid to encounter Your presence, and through Christ to stand before You cleansed, restored, and ready to shine Your glory into Your world. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

Friends, believe the good news!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

Passing of the Peace – Let us greet one another with the "Peace of Christ."

Song of Praise

"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"

Hymn 453

Open your ears, O faithful people; open your ears and hear God's word.

Open your hearts, O royal priesthood; God has come to you.

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah! God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

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Time with the Children

February Birthday Blessing – All with February birthdays are invited forward to receive a special blessing.

Hymn 76

"Do Not Be Afraid"

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Words in bold print are spoken in unison. Please stand to sing if you are able.

Musical Offering

"More Love"

arr. Sid Davis

Doxology

**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.**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he will come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 17: 1-9

Sermon

"Discovering Glory"

The Rev. Dr. Skip Baker-Smith

Hymn 662

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky"

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Cathedral Windows"

Robert Powell

Please join us in the Courtyard Lobby for snacks after worship!

Skip offers this reprint from his Sunday Bulletin of March 4, 1984.

Facing the institutional unrighteousness of Adolph Hitler's Nazi evil, Karl Barth, a renowned theologian of that day, wrote in 1938 the following challenge:

"Let the Church look and see whether she is not now compromising herself with the Devil, to whom no ally is dearer than a Church, so absorbed in caring for her good reputation and clean garments, that she keeps eternal silence, is eternally meditating, eternally discussing, eternally neutral, a Church so troubled about the transcendence of the Kingdom of God-- a thing which isn't really so easy to menace--that she has become a dumb dog. This is just the thing which must not take place today."

from: The Church and the Political Problems of our Day c 1939, page 21, Scribner's Sons, N. Y.

This year we are not having an Ash Wednesday service here. However, many churches in the area will have a service. . Trinity and St. John's Episcopal Churches will both have multiple services on Ash Wednesday; Green Acres Presbyterian Church will have theirs at 7 p.m. on Ash Wednesday. Other churches have posted online, too. Plus, Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinners--- check it out!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

David Stuart, Mary's brother	Kevin and Lynda Lee Lunday
Lane Pittman	Kathy Goolsby
Robert and Peggy Norfleet	Everest Goodrich
Monica Manley	Pat Sparks
Kim McCormick	Cecilia Fry and children Alfred and Teresa
Gus and Clara Spanos	Mary Leming
Jeff Baker, Norma's brother-in-law	Alice Butler
Bobbie Stegall	Jim and Joan Plaatsman
Rose Layman	Kathy Goodrich
Skip Parker	Trish Ballentine-Terry, friend of Todd and Jerry

Church Staff

Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

SESSION

Norma Halterman (2026)
Cameron McCormick (2026)
Todd Taylor (2026)
Linda Audet (2027)
Sue Fay (2027)
Pat Sparks (2027)
Michael Broadhurst (2028)
Diane Griffin (2028)
Dan Swanson (2028)

TRUSTEES

Kim McCormick (2026)
Gail Pittman (2027)
Earl Griffin (2028)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Charles Bond
3 Lauren Graupmann
10 Logan Smith
20 Diane Griffin
20 Steve Frazier
24 Judy Powell
27 Betty Bartlett
27 Bunky Joyner
28 Grace Bryant