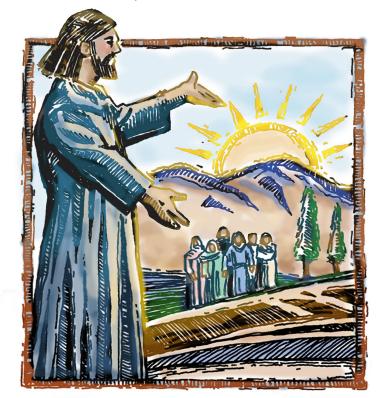
## St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551 610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org Worship 10:30am

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.



And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message...

MARK 1:39, NRSV

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ Online Streaming Worship Service

May God's loving presence be very real to you, and may you receive strength and guidance today that will enable you to handle life's challenges.

### **+++**

Sunday, February 7, 2021 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

# **ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

### We Gather

We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God, and provide for one another our love, support, and care.

#### A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

#### **GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

{To center your hearts and minds, you are invited to individually offer this prayer silently during or before the Prelude}

#### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP<sup>®</sup>

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, whom with you and the Holy Spirit we worship and praise, one God, now and forever. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

#### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

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#### \*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit. **ALL: Amen.** 

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>®</sup>

Leader:	Worship God, who is from everlasting to everlasting!
	Sing to God with great thanksgiving.
People:	How good it is to sing praises to our God!
-	We open our ears to receive God's message.
Leader:	Sing to God with great thanksgiving.
	Praise God with the best you have to offer.
Doonlor	We lift up our ever to see God's wonders

People: We lift up our eyes to see God's wonders. We open our ears to receive God's message.

### Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at www.sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen on <u>St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel</u> Later <u>Phone Stream</u> at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later <u>Zoom</u>: Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-646-558-8656) - Live Only If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org WORSHIP THELORD

# 139 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

The Lord's compassions are used every morning; great is Your failinfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23





### We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION <sup>©</sup> (Leader)

Come away from your pretensions to examine your relationship with God. Break away from your illusions of independence to realize your responsibility in the church. Claim your unity in Christ with all God's children. Then realize how much you need to confess brokenness and seek healing. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another.

#### \*CONFESSION OF SIN<sup>®</sup> (Unison)

Holy One, we are weary, we often believe we are alone, and we feel caught on a treadmill we can't get off. We're running a race – but we don't know where the finish line is, or have any idea what the prize is for completing the race. We have taken our eyes off you, the one who designed the course and sets the pace. Rather than setting our sights on you, rather than determining our priorities through our faith, we have allowed ourselves to be led by the values of the society, and whatever new shiny thing grabs our attention. Forgive us for our lack of faith. Help us to turn back to you – the source of our existence and our strength. Trusting in your providence, confident you will carry us in times of sorrow, assured you will provide all the strength we need. Amen.

#### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

{A time to silently offer our personal prayers of confession}

*PRAYER FOR MERCY	"Kyrie"	<i>♪Red</i> # 518
Leader (spoken):	Lord, have mercy upon us.	
People (sung):	Lord, have mercy upon us.	
Leader (spoken):	Christ, have mercy upon us.	
People (sung):	Christ, have mercy upon us.	
Leader (spoken):	Lord, have mercy upon us.	
People (sung):	Lord, have mercy upon us.	
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#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON <sup>®</sup>

Leader: Beloved, Isaiah says, "Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable." The God who created you and knows you by name sent his only Son to redeem you, and not to condemn. In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

### ALL: Alleluia! Amen.

#### \*CALL TO PRAISE (adapted from Psalm 147)

Leader: Praise the LORD!

People: How good it is to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

*SUNG PRAISE	"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"	refrain	
Great is	Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy	faithfulness!	
Morning	by morning new mercies I see	•	
All I hav	e needed Thy hand hath provid	led.	
Great is	Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me	e!	

*♬Blue* # 139

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{Please be seated}

## We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings. We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God." Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

**PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE** 

First Lesson:
Second Lesson:
Gospel Lesson:

Isaiah 40:21-31 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

Hymn

"On Eagle's Wings"

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**CHILDREN'S SERMON** 

SERMON

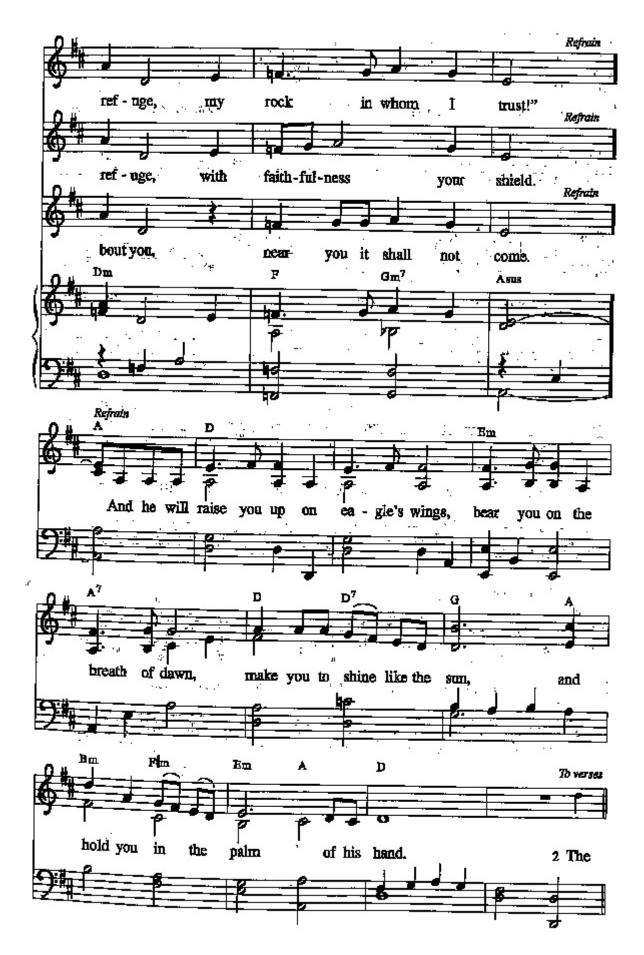
TRUST, GUIDANCE



Text: Michael Jonces, b. 1957 Mitsic: Michael Jonces Text and analy © 1975 OCP Publications

ON EACLE'S WINGS Impular

.



## We Respond with Thanks

We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped, we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by re-affirming our faith in God, praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and

giving with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

{Those who are able, please rise}

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) The Apostle's Creed I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended to the dead; on the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church.\* the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

> \* The word "catholic" means "relating to the church universal" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed. It does not mean the Roman Catholic Church, but the church, the body of Christ, as a universal fellowship.

> > {Please be seated}

#### **CALL TO PRAYER**

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you. Leader: Let us pray....

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE <sup>3</sup>

Leader: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

#### {A time of silent prayer}

Leader: For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

#### People: Have mercy, O God.

Leader: For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

- Leader: For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray.
- People: Have mercy, O God.

Leader: For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you, let us prav.

#### **People:** Have mercy, O God.

Leader: For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Leader: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray.

#### People: Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent for the sake of the one Leader: who dwells among us, your Son Jesus Christ our Saviour, in whose name we pray....

#### LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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.

Thy own dear p	<i>"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"</i> and a peace that endureth, resence to cheer and to guide. ay and bright hope for tomorrow -	vs 3 & refrain	<i>昂Blue</i> # 139
	ne with ten thousand beside!		

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

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**Online** Giving

#### **OFFERTORY INVITATION**<sup>(2)</sup>

Leader: We have an obligation to proclaim the gospel. We are entrusted with a great commission.

- People: So we give freely of our time and abilities where we are, and we send and support the witness of others where we cannot go. Leader: Let us continue to give generously.
- People: May our giving praise God.

#### **RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS**

{As we share in worship, there is no passing of the plate in person. A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed when arriving or departing from the sanctuary, or mailed in to the church.

Whether worshiping in person or online,

the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church is through our secure <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org**. <u>Click Here</u> Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

{Those who are able, please rise}

#### \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "We Give Thee But Thine Own" We give Thee but Thine own, What e'er the gift may be: All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

#### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER<sup>®</sup>

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vs 1

Thank you God, for showing us a better way to live than we are able to devise for ourselves. Thank you for reaching out to win our hearts. Thank you for Jesus Christ, for the ministry that extended your love to the least and the lost, for the powerful presence that offered wholeness to those who were sick or brokenhearted, for the prayers that demonstrated how we, too, can be in communion with you. In gratitude, we dedicate this offering. **Amen.** 

### We Are Sent Out

In response to God's love and grace, we go out into the world to share God's Good News through our words and actions.

#### \*COMMISSION<sup>®</sup>

Leader:	Go out to serve. Someone needs you today. What you have to give will be helpful to someone.
People:	We pray God will open our eyes to needs around us.
•	We will look for ways to be helpful.
Leader:	Go in the name of Jesus Christ, who sends us.
	Speak a healing word. Do a caring deed.
People:	We shall run and not be weary.
	Surely God will empower our ministry.
ALL:	Amen.

#### \*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING HYMN

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us, as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world}.



#### ¥ ¥ ¥ ¥

#### Worship Service Resource Credits

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- \* Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. (1995). Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis and Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, Philadelphia. Reprinted with permission from Sundays and Seasons. (2020). Augsburg Fortress
- \* Reprinted with permission from the Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the United States. and/or The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. (1985) New York: United Church Press.
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- Lecturn Resource. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN. Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources. (2017). Margate, NJ.
- Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
- Reprinted with Permission from Lecturn Resource. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
- <sup>®</sup> Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
- <sup>®</sup> The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
- \* The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at umcdiscipleship.org, with adaptations from: the Rev. Tamie Scalise, Richard Stowe (author of *The Love Feast*), moravianmusic.org, moravian.org, and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz. One License is our Church Copyright License# A-728042,, which is a subscription service giving us copyright permission to print the words and music found in the bulletin and
- to live stream music on the internet during the Worship Service.

Resources are edited and adapted for use in this worship service.

#### \* \* \* \* \*

#### The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

(1) God welcomes us and invites us

- (2) We respond to God's call by worshiping Him
- (3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace
- (4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace
- (5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon
- (6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer
- (7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure
- (8) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others

### † Prayer List †

Please lift up those listed here in your prayers this week. "Pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." ~ James 5:16b

B. & S. Blatt	R. Koch
R. DiGirolamo	N. Miller
D. DiGirolamo	S. Rowe
L. Laumeister	P. Porter
D. Laumeister	M. McCloy
R. & J. Seifrit	R. Lamm
J. Seifrit	Rev. B. Weiser
K. Long & D. Long	Alex
G. Merkel III	L. & R. Burkhart
A. Robertson	A. Heck
F. Rahmanian	L. Hainley
A. Snyder	M. Unger
D. Logic	Veterans
J. Altrechter	Students and Teachers
S. Miller	Family & Friends of E. Rhone (mother of B. Davis)
Those impacted by storms and hurricanes	Family & Friends of E. Phillips
Those battling forest fires	Family & Friends of S. Walker
Victims of forest fires & their loved ones	Family & Friends of E. Himlin
Efforts to reduce & eliminate racism	Family & Friends of A. Robertson
Those impacted by COVID-19	Family & Friends of B. Gechter
Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19	Family & Friends of L.J. Neuen

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you. All are welcome to add names to the prayer list.

Names are generally left on the list for about four weeks. Please let us know if you would like a name to remain longer or shorter. If you would like someone's name added to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 610-621-5770 or <u>office@sprucc.org.</u>

### ትትት General Announcements ትትት

#### Welcome!

We are glad that you are here to worship with us virtually. May you find the worship and message meaningful and satisfying to your soul. May your week be blessed.

#### In Person AND Virtual Sunday School Options

Due to the increase in the number of people affected by COVID, *in-person Sunday school* for children and adults has been suspended until further notice.

However, <u>The Wired Word</u> is still available for adults. This is a virtual option which you may join via Zoom. For Zoom you can join either with a computer or smart device (if you do not yet have the Zoom app, click on this <u>Zoom</u> link), or call 1-301-715-8592 with a landline or cell phone. Meeting ID: 860 8980 7220; Passcode: 195152.

Although not in-person, the youth can still continue to learn about God's Word through the information available on our website. We have Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials that are available for downloading. Click on this link for Sunday school for youth.

We also have devotional music for all ages on our website, courtesy of Pastor Bob. Click on this link for <u>Devotional</u> Music.

For our Sunday school COVID-19 Safety Precautions click on the following link:

http://www.sprucc.org/news-a-events.html#COVID19Precautions

To have a copy of the precautions mailed to you, please call 610-621-5770.

#### **Telephone Live Streaming & Playback Worship**

This service is being offered to those who do not have internet access. You may call us at our toll free number **1-888-649-5770** and listen to the worship service live using a landline or cell phone. (No internet, smartphone, tablet, or computer is necessary - this works with a standard corded phone, cell phone, or even with a rotary phone). You also have the option for the church to automatically call you when the live stream worship begins (rather than you calling the church); which you can sign up for at the above toll free number, or you can call the church office, and we can add you to the call list. If you have any questions, difficulties, or issues, please let us know by calling the office at 610-621-5770. There is no charge to you for this service. If you know of someone who does not have internet access, please let them know of this feature, especially as they cannot log onto the website and find out about this themselves.

#### Visitation Care Team

Our Visitation Care Team (VCT) is composed of lay members who have been trained for visitation. If you are in need of prayer, a visit, or just a listening ear, they are here to be of support to you. To contact the Visitation Care Team with a visitation request or to share information about a potential care need, call the church office at 610-621-5770 or email the office at <u>office@sprucc.org</u>. For more information, go to our "<u>Visitation Care Ministries</u>" page at <u>www.sprucc.org</u> under the "ministries" tab.

#### Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Please join us virtually Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30pm for our <u>Ash Wednesday service</u>. Use the following information to join the service (it's the same that we use for our Sunday morning worship services):

Online: Live Štream at www.sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen on <u>St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel</u> Later <u>Phone Stream</u> at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

Zoom: Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-646-558-8656) - Live Only

#### Lenten Bible Study Series

This year, St. Paul's UCC in Robesonia and Zion UCC in Womelsdorf, will be having a combined study series during the Sundays in Lent. The topic is *"Making Sense of the Bible"*. It will be held via Zoom on Sunday evenings (Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, & 21) at 6:30pm. There is no cost, no minimum number of sessions that you must attend, and you need not be a member of either church. All are welcome. Detailed information may be found on our <u>website</u>.

### **About Today**

Church Season: Epiphany - Season of the manifestation of God incarnate to the world.

In Greek "phan" is "shine" or "manifest," and "epi" is "upon." The season of Epiphany continues from January 6 until Ash Wednesday.

**Color of the Paraments** (cloths on the altar and pulpit):

**Green**- symbolizing this season of mission - the incarnate Christ has been made manifest to us on Epiphany and we are to go into the world and share his Good News.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year B**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Mark.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

#### This Sunday, February 7, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany.

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39..

#### Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

#### Psalm 147

This OT song is a hymn of praise to God for the Lord's care, power, and wisdom in creation, especially for God's care and keeping of the lowliest and weakest creatures.

### The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 53-54 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is in response to issues within the Corinthian church, in particular fractions caused by one-upmanship and privatization of faith. Paul encourages humility, unity within diversity, and witnessing to God's grace. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

#### The Gospel According to Mark

Mark's Gospel is the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels, written between 65-75 A.D. Papias, a church leader in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, reported that this Gospel's author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter's death.

#### Next Sunday, February 14, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Transfiguration Sunday.

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.