

**Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario**

**February 15, 2026**

**Black History Month and Transfiguration Sunday**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Anne Montgomery**

**Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook**

**Readers: Nancy Watters**

**Prelude: Through Moanin' Pines- Harry T Burleigh**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the importance of the land, which we call home.

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land.

**We seek to live with respect and gratitude on this land.**

We acknowledge the Anishinaabe Algonquin people on whose traditional and unceded land Southminster United Church is built.

**We seek to live with respect and gratitude on this land.**

We acknowledge the harm and mistakes of the past in our relations with Indigenous people.

**We seek to live with respect and gratitude on this land.**

We reaffirm our commitment and responsibility to improving relationships and our understanding of all Indigenous people and their cultures.

**We seek to live with respect and gratitude on this land.**

**Lighting of the Candles**

At the transfiguration, three disciples experienced Jesus shining and radiant. We were not there to experience the mystery of that moment, but we are here now.

**We can nurture our relationship with Jesus, so that our living reflects that Christ light, so that we shine in ways small and large.**

We light the Christ candle as a symbol of the light that shines through us as we live our discipleship. We light the Affirm candle as a symbol of welcome to all, proclaiming that each one is loved and celebrated just as we are.

R. Bott, Gathering A/C/E 2025-6, with permission, adapted

**Call to Worship**

Building up strong takes a sturdy foundation. Raising up strong takes wisdom and passion.  
Growing up strong takes love grounded in God.

**In our worship may we find our foundation, our wisdom and passion, our love grounded in God and rooted in Christ. May it be so!**

B. Perry, Gathering A/C/E 2025-6, with permission, adapted.

### **Opening Hymn: My Lord, what a morning (VU 708)**

*Refrain:*

**My Lord, what a morning.**

**My Lord, what a morning.**

**My Lord, what a morning  
when the stars begin to fall.**

**You'll hear the trumpet sound  
to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**You'll hear the Christian shout  
to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: African-American spiritual

### **Passing of the Peace/ Greeting Time**

#### **Prayers of Approach and Confession**

God of transformation and transfiguration, we come to the mountaintop. Transformation begins as the holy is encountered, and continues as we listen carefully and are attentive. It takes shape as the significance of Jesus is acknowledged, and it is proved as we go about your work.

**This is a time of transformation. We open our spirits to your transforming love, Gracious God.**

Loving God, you enable us to make changes that matter. With your love, you transform our sadness into joy, our defeat into hope. With your love, you transform our apathy into commitment, our selfishness into thanksgiving, With your love, you transform our indifference into praise, our shyness into laughter.

**Transforming God, we are restored by your presence to be the faithful ones we are called to be. In gratitude, we open our hearts now to you, sharing honestly what needs transformation in our lives.**

*(a time of silent prayer)*

D. Sparks, Gathering A/C/E 2025-6, with permission, adapted

## Words of Assurance

Hear this Good News: “Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God....But that is not all; we rejoice because of what God has done through Jesus Christ, who has now made us God’s friends.”

(Romans 5:1,11)

## Hymn: Behold, behold I make all things new (MV 115)

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)  
I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.  
Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)  
I make all things new,  
my promise is true,  
for I am Christ the way.  
*Repeat*

*Words and music: John L. Bell, 1995. Words and music copyright © 1995 by WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., excl. N. American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

## Prayer for Understanding

It is good to be here; this holy place is a good place to listen for Creator’s voice.

**It is good to be together; there is joy and strength as we receive Creator’s word in faith community.**

It is good to reflect on our biblical traditions; through the gifts of Jewish and Christian scriptures our way is secured.

**It is good to be inspired to work for just and compassionate causes; the call is to come down from the mountaintop and go out to serve.**

Bless us and open us to receive your word this morning, Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

B. Perry, Gathering A/C/E 2025-6, with permission, adapted

## Lectionary Readings

### Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a

devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

## Psalm 2 (VU p. 725)

*Refrain:*

Unison C Em Am Gm7 Bbm7 C

Serve God with ho - - - ly fear.

Why are the nations in turmoil,  
and why are the peoples engaged in futile plotting?

**The monarchs of the earth arise,  
and the rulers take counsel together  
against God and against God's anointed.**

"Let us break their fetters," they say,  
"and let us cast off their chains."

**The One whose throne is in heaven  
laughs them to scorn,  
God holds them in derision.**

You speak to them in your wrath,  
and terrify them in your fury.

**"I myself have set up one to rule,  
on Zion, my holy hill." Refrain**

I will recite the decree of God, who said to me,

**"You are my child, today I have begotten you.**

Ask, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance,  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.

You will crush them with a rod of iron,  
and break them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Refrain

Now therefore, you monarchs, be wise;  
be prudent, you rulers of the earth.

**Serve God with fear, with trembling bow down,  
lest God be angry and you perish,  
for God's anger is quickly kindled.**

**Blessed are all who put their trust in God. Refrain**

*Hal H. Hopson 1985. Copyright © 1985 Hope Publishing Company*

### **Matthew 17:1-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved;[b] with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem: I Believe by Mark A. Miller**

**Reflection: "Get up and get down"**

**Hymn: We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding (VU 104)**

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.  
  
Light breaks in upon our darkness;  
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;  
Moses and Elijah marvel  
as the heavenly voice is heard  
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder  
how the Law and Prophets meet:  
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,  
stands transfigured and complete.  
  
Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,  
fearful lest our faith decline,  
we like Peter find it tempting

**to remain and build a shrine.  
But true worship gives us courage  
to proclaim what we profess,  
that our daily lives may prove us  
people of the God we bless.**

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. 1988. Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor 1941. Words copyright ©1988, music copyright ©1942, (renewal) 1970 Hope Publishing Company.

### **Invitation of Offering: Ev'ry Day is a Day of Thanksgiving (MV 185)**

**Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving, God,  
you've been so good to me.  
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.  
Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.  
I will glorify you, O my Lord, today! *Repeat***

**You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.  
You opened the door that I might see,  
you're blessing me.  
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.  
I will glorify you, O my Lord, today!**

*A lively gospel song from the African-American tradition. Words and music: Leonard Burks.  
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### **Offering Prayer**

In response to such a great universal love, we dare to respond with our offerings: our time and our talents, our gifts and our griefs, our hopes and our happiness, our memories and our money, trusting they will be used for the good of the world, praying we will be blessed in our giving. Amen.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

With Jesus, we pray together saying:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn: We shall overcome (TLUS 129)**

**We shall overcome,  
we shall overcome,  
we shall overcome someday!  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe  
we shall overcome someday!**

**We'll go hand in hand,  
we'll go hand in hand,  
we'll go hand in hand someday!  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe  
we'll go hand in hand someday!**

**We shall all be free,  
we shall all be free,  
we shall all be free someday!  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe  
we shall all be free someday!**

**We shall live in peace,  
we shall live in peace,  
we shall live in peace someday!  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe  
we shall live in peace someday!**

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith. TLUS 129  
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## **Commissioning**

In Jesus' transfiguration, we experienced the overwhelming brilliance of self-giving love, revealing within the ordinary commonness of flesh and bone the wonder of God's good news, living love that transforms.

**As we go down from the mountain and out into the world, God blesses us in Jesus' name, transforming our lives in the name of Love, a Love that illuminates the entire world.**

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude: Sailing Through Clouds - Florence B. Price**

## **Coffee Time**

*Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) of the Bible.*

**Coffee Host:**  
**Ushers/Counters: Gerald Ohashi / Janet Sutherland**

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**As the people of Southminster United Church**, we affirm and actively support the life experience of all. All persons are invited to take part in every aspect of church life including membership, leadership, celebration of life passages and marriage. We are committed to following Jesus' example as we embrace people of all ages, racialized groups, genders, sexual orientations, gender identities, ethnic origins, economic circumstances and differing abilities and challenges in the ministry and life of Southminster United Church.



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