*There is a Cost to Follow*

*Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2024*

Greeting

Call to Worship:

Pastor: Stop and listen! The voice of God is calling to us.  
**People: God is calling us to listen to the Gospel news.**

Pastor: The voices of this world promise us worldly things,

**People: But only God promises us eternity.**

Pastor: Stop for a moment. Take a deep breath. Listen to what God is speaking in your heart.

**People:** **May we be open to the word of God in our songs and stories,**

**in scripture and sermon.**

Pastor: Stop and listen! The voice of God is calling to you:

**People: For we are God’s beloved children.**

**Worship Music Give Me Jesus**

OPENING PRAYER

Father, we hear the stories in Scripture, the words of the prophets, the tales of our ancestors, the songs of the psalmists and the proverbs of the poets. Help us to listen to the words You have given us, and to listen to the Word that became flesh and dwelled among us, Jesus Christ our Lord. When we hear God say, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” may we stop and listen. May we humble ourselves instead of thinking we know it all and we’ve heard it all before. Speak to us so we might listen in a new way, to know Your love in new ways and to share that love with the world. Invite us into this time and space that is Yours, so we might draw closer to You. **AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (Verses 1- 3,5) #160

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 27: 1-4 ESV

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

CHOIR ANTHEM Since the Fullness of His Love

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

The good news of the Gospel is that we do not have to live in this world by ourselves. Jesus came to be with us; to help us where and when we cannot continue alone. He is with us still. As we give this morning, consider how our gifts can help those who are struggling to meet needs greater than ours.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings we give, that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our Sovereign and our God. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 8:27 – 9:8 ESV

HYMN OF PREPARATION O Come and Dwell in Me (Verses 1-3) #388

SERMON There Is a Cost to Follow Jesus Pastor Lyle

\*CLOSING HYMN Take My Life, and Let It Be #399

BENEDICTION

May the LORD cause you to flourish, both you and your children. May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 115:14-15) Blessed by God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit, go and be a blessing to those you meet. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Prayer List:**

Family of Ronald Adams Janet Fisher Moyer - sciatica

Amber – breast cancer Arlene Oner – hip replacement

Margaret Bollinger -pancreatic cancer Nash – sickle cell anemia (home)

Ron Dentzer – cancer People in Israel and Gaza and Ukraine

Donna – cancer treatable Connie Rupp – hospice care at Fairmont

Kris and Dan Frey- house destroyed Dr. Bill Schlorff – stage 3 throat cancer

Jolene and Mike – snow mobile accident Sharon - brain cancer

Cindy Haines – skilled care Linda Slafkovski – metastatic cancer

Mary Jenks – biopsy scheduled Dawn Smith – stage 4 cancer

Kellen – reaction to lymphoma treatment Tom Steffy – doctor appointments

Faye Miller - immunotherapy for cancer Alex Wenger – treatments for leukemia

**SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING**

**OFFERING AMT NEEDED EACH WEEK       $1,400**

**OFFERING February 4th $1,736**

**AMT OF OFFERING NEEDED TO     $7,000**

**AMT RECEIVED TO DATE         $12,069**

**BUDGET YTD +$5069 Attendance – 33 Folks**

**What’s happening at Wiest:**

The Chosen – video series – 1030 Sunday after church

Bible Study – Tuesdays 1000-1200.

Choir Practice – Thursdays 1200 PM

Girl Scouts – 2nd Thursday of each month

Birthday Party – Memphis James Pettus – Saturday February 17th 100 PM

RSVP to Lindsy by February 14th 717-341-9969

Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday February 14th 7PM

Game Day – Thursday February 22nd 130-330 PM

Blessings of Hope – Saturday February 26th 1030-1100

Girl Scout Sunday – March 10, 2024

Audio of the Sunday message is posted on our church website ([www.wiestchurch.org](http://www.wiestchurch.org)). Video on Wiest Church Facebook page

Lectionary Readings for next week: Sunday – Mark 9: 1-8

Monday – Mark 9: 9-13 Thursday – Mark 9: 38-50

Tuesday – Mark 9: 14-29 Friday – Mark 10: 1-12

Wednesday – Mark 9: 30-37 Saturday – Mark 10: 13-16

Sermon Summary

It Costs to Follow

This week Jesus has moved again. We read that he is in Caesarea Philippi. He has moved on from the villages surrounding Nazareth. He is now at the northern most point of his travels, near Mt. Sinai. Mark is very much focused on telling who Jesus is, and why he has come. He opens with the decisive claim: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (1:1). Jesus asks 2 questions. “Who do the people say I am? And Who do you say I am?” Responding, the disciples say “ John the Baptist and Elijah.” Peter declares that he is “the Christ” (8:29); finally someone gets it right.

With Peter’s confession and Jesus’ subsequent announcement of his passion, death, and resurrection (8:31–38), we have reached a critical turning point to the narrative. Jesus’s message turns toward the cross. He first tells of his upcoming suffering, death, and resurrection. This was the way that Jesus, the beloved Son of God—will exercise his authority and fulfill his role as the Messiah. Jesus will defy people’s expectations. He will not dominate or conquer with worldly power. He will save sinners by becoming a servant and will “give his life as a ransom for many” (10:45). Then he will rise again—victorious and vindicated as the Messiah.

Jesus said this openly to all who could hear, but Peter took him aside and rebuked him. This is the same Peter that had just confessed that Jesus was the “the Christ.”!

Jesus, in turn, rebuked Peter, by calling him Satan, a stumbling block fixed on human things and not the divine. Peter saw as man sees, not as Jesus sees. Jesus instructed the crowd how to be his disciples: to deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him. It became clear in this moment what it really meant to follow Jesus, and it was also clear the disciples did not fully understand.

Jesus tries to get us to understand this truth. You will lose your life if you try to save it. You will save your life if you lose it for Jesus and the gospel.

Six days later, Jesus went up the mountain, and while Peter wanted to stay up there and worship Jesus, along with Moses and Elijah, God told them to listen to the Son. And the Son told them they had to go back down the mountain. We can’t stay back where things are safe. We can’t stay in our old way of thinking that only gives us “the good stuff.” There is a cost to follow Jesus.

Sermon Quiz

1. Mark is very much focused on telling \_\_\_\_ Jesus is, and \_\_\_\_ he has come.
2. When Jesus asks who the disciples think he is, \_\_\_\_\_\_ answer, “You are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
3. This confession is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ point in the story of Jesus.
4. Jesus’s message turns toward the \_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Jesus’ way will defy people’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. He will save \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by becoming a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Peter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus because he was fixed on \_\_\_\_\_\_ things and not on the divine.
8. Jesus instructed the crowd on how to be his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
9. Those who want to save their lives will \_\_\_\_\_ them, and those who lose their lives will \_\_\_\_\_ them.
10. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, but it is worth it.

Last Week’s Quiz

1. Jesus travelled home from Capernaum to Nazareth.
2. Hospitality was important to the culture of the time.
3. While amazed by his words, the people scoffed at Jesus because of his occupation and family.
4. Jesus was able only to heal a few people because of their unbelief.
5. Jesus leaves Nazareth and preaches in the surrounding villages.
6. Then he sends his disciples out in pairs, giving them authority to cast out unclean spirits.
7. The power in God’s reign is shown by all that one gives.
8. Herod has heard about Jesus because everyone was talking about him.
9. Herod made an oath and his pride causes him to carry it out.
10. John and Jesus were alike in many ways, but at the end the tomb of Jesus was empty.