

Readings for February 19, 2023
United Church of Strafford In Person and Zoom Service

Responsive Reading *from Psalms 50, 104, 36 & 139,*
and II Corinthians 4

Leader: O God, you speak and summon the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

People: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, you shine forth.

Leader: You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.

**People: With you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.**

Leader: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"

**People: Even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

Leader: The gods of this world blind people's minds
and keep them from perceiving the light
shining from the image of God in Christ.

**People: But the God who said,
"Let light shine out of darkness,"
has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

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 dazzling white. 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 make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; 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 looked up, 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."