



Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge
Transfiguration / Communion Sunday, March 2, 2025 – 10:00 am
Worship at Home

Email: northpelham.rockwaypc@gmail.com **Website:** <https://northpelhamrockwaypresbyterian.ca>

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: *"For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."* (2 Cor. 4:6)

P: **We gather to worship the God who shines light into our worries and fears, revealed in Jesus Christ.**

L: We come seeking faith greater than our fear, longing for God's peace and presence.

P: **Just as Jesus was transfigured before his disciples, God transforms us, lifting us beyond worry into deeper trust.**

L: As we worship and gather at the Lord's Table, may we be reminded that Jesus meets us in our need and fills us with grace.

P: **Nourish us, O God, in worship and Communion, that we may shine with Your love.**

Hymn 376

Lord, the light of your love is shining

PRAYERS OF APPROACH, CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Transfiguring God,

We gather today to worship You. Speak to us—not in a general way, but in a way that reaches the specific worries and burdens we carry in our thoughts, hearts, and emotions. Speak to us in our pain and hurt. Speak to us in our fears, in our stress. Speak to us where we feel powerless, where uncertainty clouds our path, where tensions with others make life difficult and unsteady.

O God, there is much that weighs on us today. For some of us, our concerns lie in work, finances, and the tension between planning for the future and living fully in the present. We carry the joys and struggles of our closest relationships, which require tender care but are not always easy. We face health concerns, uncertainties, and the realities of our own vulnerability and fragility. We also bring our concerns for our church's future—its mission, community, and calling in the world. Give us wisdom, courage, and faith to trust in Your guidance as we seek to be a light for others. We long for strength, O God—the strength we did not know we had. And we need the wisdom to face our weaknesses, not just endure them, but grow stronger in new ways through them.

Hear us now, O God, in the silence as we open our hearts to You. (pause)

Speak to us in this time of worship, O God. Speak through the words, the music, the silence, the prayers, and the readings. We are listening.

And as we come to the table of our Lord, may this Sacrament of Holy Communion renew our faith, remind us of Your presence, and draw us closer to You and to one another. May the bread

we break and the cup we share be a sign of Your grace, nourishing us for the journey ahead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Hymn 87 (R)

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Prayer for Understanding

Loving God,

In our worries, speak to us through Your Word. Shine Your light upon us, that we may find strength in surrender, peace in trust, and renewal in Your presence. Open our hearts to listen, to let go, and to rest in You. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Responsive Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11; Mark 9:2-8; 2 Cor. 4:1-6

SERMON

Letting Go and Letting Be

Worry is something we all experience, no matter who we are or what our circumstances may be. Whether we are rich or poor, young or old, surrounded by family or alone, living in peaceful prosperity or struggling through hardship, worry finds its way into every human heart.

It often begins with small concerns—a financial strain, a health issue, a relationship tension—but soon, it grows. Worry expands, piling onto itself, leaving us restless and uneasy. It gnaws at us in the silence of the night, lingers in our thoughts during the day, and sometimes even prevents us from fully experiencing the joy and peace that God desires for us.

So how do we deal with worry? How do we find a firm foundation that can steady us when uncertainty shakes our confidence?

Today's gospel reading offers a glimpse into divine certainty through the Transfiguration of Jesus—a mountaintop revelation in the midst of earthly struggles. It reminds us that even when life is chaotic, we can stand firm in faith, knowing that God's presence is unwavering.

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain, away from the demands of daily life. There, before their eyes, he is transformed—his face and clothes glowing in brilliant white light, a vision of divine glory. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appear beside him, speaking with him. Then, a cloud descends, and the voice of God is heard: "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" It is a majestic, awe-inspiring moment, one that leaves the disciples overwhelmed and uncertain.

But just as quickly as the vision appears, it fades. Moses and Elijah vanish, the divine radiance disappears, and Jesus is once again standing before them in his ordinary human form. And then? They descend the mountain, back into the messiness of life, where the struggles of everyday existence await them.

What was the point of this revelation? It did not erase their troubles. It did not give them detailed answers about the future. Instead, it gave them something far deeper—a certainty beyond circumstances.

The lesson for us is the same: We may not always have control over what happens in our lives, but we can have faith. We can trust that God is with us. We can stand on a firm foundation, even when everything else feels shaky.

The greatest remedy to worry is learning to rest in God. But what does that really mean? It means surrendering—not in defeat, but in trust. It means acknowledging that we do not need to control everything. It means shifting from a constant striving mindset to a faith-filled release posture.

We often struggle with surrender because we think being in control will protect us. If we just work harder, plan better, and prepare more, we can prevent bad things from happening. But the truth is, we can never be in complete control—not of the future, not of other people, not even of ourselves.

So what do we do instead? We let go and let be. This is not a passive resignation. It is a spiritual discipline, a practice we must cultivate daily, even moment by moment—especially when things feel overwhelming.

The Psalms teach us how to pray this way. Again and again, the psalmists cry out to God in honest desperation, pouring out their worries and fears—only to return to a place of trust: *"Be still and know that I am God."* (Psalm 46:10)

Letting go and letting be does not mean giving up—it means releasing our burdens into God's hands so that we can be free to live fully, love deeply, and serve joyfully. Much of our worry is rooted in our desire for security. We tell ourselves:

- *If I just had more money, I wouldn't have to worry about the future.*
- *If I could guarantee good health, I wouldn't have to be afraid.*
- *If I knew my relationships would never fail, I could feel safe.*

But the truth is that security is an illusion. No matter how much we prepare, plan, or protect ourselves, we will never be fully secure in worldly terms. Life is unpredictable. Circumstances change. The alternative is not to live in fear but to live in faith.

If surrendering to God is the first pillar of security, then generosity is the second. When we stop trying to hold onto everything so tightly, we discover a paradox: the more we give, the richer our lives become.

Jesus teaches that the way to true abundance is not through grasping and hoarding, but through open-handed living. This applies to material wealth, but also to time, love, and kindness.

- Instead of worrying about not having enough, we learn to trust in God's provision.
- Instead of focusing on our own security, we find security in caring for others.

- Instead of fearing loss, we embrace the joy of giving.

True generosity is not about charity alone—it is about relationship. It is about creating a world where people are not just giving, but also receiving in turn, where love flows freely. Imagine if instead of being consumed by personal anxieties, we focused on creative ways to give and share. Imagine a world where worry no longer paralyzes us, but inspires us to act in love.

We are often so caught up in the immediate—what will happen this week, this month, this year—that we forget the bigger picture. Our lives are part of a greater story, a story woven by God. This does not mean that everything will be easy. It does not mean we will never experience hardship, loss, or uncertainty. But it does mean that we can trust that there is meaning beyond what we see.

We don't have to have everything figured out. Our faith is not about knowing all the answers but about trusting the One who does. This is what Jesus' Transfiguration reveals to us: That beyond the struggles of the present, there is glory ahead. That beyond fear, there is hope. That beyond worry, there is peace.

So what will we choose? Will we continue to let worry and fear control us, or will we learn to let go and let be?

May God wake us up and shake us up. Even in the middle of our stress, worry and uncertainty, we may see the brilliant light of Christ embracing us. And may that light lead us to a new way of living—One where worry does not cripple us but empowers us to trust. One where fear does not close us off but leads us to generosity. One where we find peace, not in control, but in surrendering to God. Amen.

Hymn 749

Be still, my soul

Invitation to the offering

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God,

In a world filled with worry, we offer these gifts as an act of trust. May they be used to bring light, hope, and renewal to those in need. Teach us to give with joyful hearts, resting in Your abundant grace. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

The Apostles' Creed (p.539)

Hymn 530

I come with joy (vv. 1-3)

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All: Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ comes again and again! Hallelujah!

All: “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.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer after Communion (in unison)

Loving and faithful God,

we give You thanks for this holy meal, for in this bread and cup, we have tasted Your grace, Your presence has nourished us, and we have been reminded of Your unfailing love.

As we have received the body of Christ, may we now go forth as His body in the world. As we have shared in the cup of salvation, may we pour out our lives in love and service.

O God, You have met us here—in our worries, uncertainties, and longing for peace and security. Through this sacred meal, You remind us: we do not walk alone, we do not need to carry every burden by ourselves, for You are with us, guiding us in faith, strengthening us in hope, and surrounding us with Your transforming love.

Help us, Lord, to let go of fear and trust in You. Help us to surrender control and rest in Your grace. Fill us with the light of Christ so that we may shine with His love in a world so often darkened by worry and fear.

As we rise from this table, may we be renewed—to live generously, love courageously, and walk faithfully in Christ's path. In His name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 530

I come with joy (vv. 4-5)

Benediction:

May the light of Christ guide you, the love of God be your foundation, and the peace of the Holy Spirit free you from worry as you rest in God's grace.

Sung Response: "Go Now In Peace"**Postlude**

**The Life and Ministry of our Congregations, led by Rev. Jacob Lee:
Pastoral Charge of Rockway and First, North Pelham**

<p>We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe</p>

Announcements:

***Worship on Sunday, March 9, at North Pelham**

***Heartfelt Gratitude:** *"Thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement from the church and to everyone who sent cards and well wishes during our time of loss. Your thoughtfulness and encouragement are appreciated."* – Trish and Kent

***Holy Communion:** Today, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Jesus invites everyone to His graceful and joyful table. All are welcome!

***Rockway's 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting** will occur on Sunday, March 2, following the worship service. Join us for this critical time of reflection on the past year and look ahead to the year to come. All are welcome to participate!

***RPCW Meeting:** The RPCW will meet on Wednesday, March 5, at 1:30 PM at the church.

***World Day of Prayer 2025:** The World Day of Prayer will be held at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Pelham, Ontario, on Friday, March 7, from 2 to 4 PM. All are welcome to attend!

***MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES 2025:** Join us this Lent for prayer, worship, and fellowship with neighbouring churches as we prepare for Easter.

Service Schedule:

- **March 6 – 2:00 PM** at Kirk on the Hill (Fonthill)
Led by Rev. Anita Van Nest
- **March 20 – 2:00 PM** at First Presbyterian (North Pelham) *Led by Rev. Jacob Lee*

- **April 3 – 2:00 PM** at Hope Presbyterian (335 Fitch St., Welland) *Led by Rev. Bernie Skelding*
- **April 17 – 7:00 PM** Maundy Thursday Communion at Kirk on the Hill *Jointly led by local clergy*

All are welcome!

***Please join Kathy Quigley-Keenan in celebrating her husband Tom's life next Saturday, March 8th from 1-4 p.m. at the St. Catharines Armenian Community Centre, 156 Martindale Road.**

***North Pelham's 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, March 9, immediately after the worship service. This is a time to review the past year and prepare for this year.

***Quilting** Tuesdays at North Pelham at 9:00 am

***Wednesday Bible Study led by Diane McMillan** meets at 10:00 am at North Pelham

***Outreach - Thursday Walking:** Join our Wellness Walk & Coffee Chat! Meet at Canada Games Park at 9:30 a.m. for the walk, followed by a joyful coffee chat at Rockway at 10:45 a.m.

***Connect with your Minister Jacob for pastoral visits.** Reach Jacob at jacoble0501@gmail.com or 289-213-2797.