



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 15th February 2026

Transfiguration Sunday

compiled by Alison Morgan – Local Preacher

Today we mark the Transfiguration of Jesus, a mysterious episode recorded in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke and referred to in 2 Peter. On the mountain top Jesus is transfigured with glory and joined by Moses, representing the Law and Elijah representing the prophets. Yet even in the awe filled glory the others talk with Jesus about his suffering and death.

Our call to worship

Come and worship the One enthroned in heavenly splendour,
The one who defends us and feeds us with His very self.
We come to worship and adore.

Come and worship, pay homage to the One who lifts us up,
Cleanses our soul, and teaches us deep truths.
We come to worship and learn.

Come and worship the One whom angels hail,
Who gives water from the rock and manna from heaven.
We come to worship and be changed. Amen

Hymn 79 Mission Praise

1] Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Day-spring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

2] Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return,
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3] Visit then this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine;
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Let us pray

Eternal One, it is good for us to be with you today,
To rest in your presence, to see your glory,
To find peace and contentment in heart and soul,
To be schooled in holiness, and sent out with joy.
We worship and adore you!

Risen Lord Jesus,
Your glory shines around us both comforting and terrifying;
Comforting with your love, terrifying with your insistent call.
Forgive us, good Lord,
When the hardness of our hearts has veiled our minds to your message,
When we've preferred sin's bondage rather than freedom's grace,
When we've swapped truth's openness for shameful underhand ways.
Forgive us and give us time to change.

Most Holy Spirit we see your glory in the world around us,
From birds' flight, to clouds on the hills,
From the glory of a city's life, to the quiet street of a village,
From nature's majesty, to the innocent love of a child.
As a forgiven people seeking to forgive,
May we be changed from glory to glory,
That we may shine with your presence.

O Trinity of love, let the glory we receive enable us to change.
And to be agents of transformation in our world. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our reading today is from Matthew 17 1-9

The Transfiguration

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 with a voice from the cloud 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 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'.

Thanks be to God for His Word.

Reflection

At the transfiguration Jesus' disciples watch as he is transformed and shines with heavenly glory. The transfiguration marks the midpoint in a series of scenes that define who Jesus is. At both his baptism and transfiguration the heavenly voice announces that he is God's son. In the scenes leading up to the transfiguration, the disciples worship the Jesus who walks on water as the Son of God, but they cannot yet imagine what it means for Jesus to claim this title. Six days later Jesus takes Peter, James and John up onto a high mountain. There he is transformed before them. His face shines like the sun, and his clothes become white as light. Moses and Elijah appear and talk to Jesus. As in Mark and Luke, Peter says, 'It is good for us

to be here,' and suggest building tents for each of the three, but Matthew treats Peter differently here than the other Gospels do. Peter calls Jesus' "Lord", the title that in Matthew indicates faith. Jesus does not respond to the offer, but while Peter is still speaking, a brilliant cloud overshadows them. A voice from the cloud echoes the words of the heavenly voice at Jesus' baptism.

'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased'.

The whole scene resonates with allusions to the Old Testament. It recalls Elijah's encounter with God on the holy mountain. It brings to mind the revelation at Mount Sinai and the cloud of God's glory overshadowing both the mountain and the tent where Moses met with God.

Then Jesus approaches his frightened followers, touches them, and tells them not to be afraid, though they are scared, they listen to Jesus, the word of God comes to them, not as a thunderous voice from heaven or letters written on tables of stone, but in the words and action of Jesus. The Son of God speaks to them as one human speaks to another, and they get up and follow him.

On the way down the mountain Jesus tells them once again that the Son of Man must suffer, and he orders them to tell no one about the vision until after he has been raised from the dead. They discuss Elijah's role in restoring all things, and then Jesus, whose face has shone like the sun, walks into the crowd and immediately heals a demon-possessed child.

The story of the transfiguration directs us away from trying to understand Jesus only as he is revealed in glory. It points us down the mountain and invites us to walk with Jesus into the suffering, hungry crowds. The divine voice commands us to listen to Jesus. But listening is more than hearing. As Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount, building on the rock means not only hearing his words, but acting on them.

At Gethsemane, when Jesus himself faces the temptation to disobey his Father and abandon the road to the cross, the same three disciples who saw him transfigured wait with him while he grieves and prays. He passes the test, but they do not. He walks steadfastly on to suffering and death, and they desert him and flee. On the cross Jesus shows the world the obedient Son of God in all his suffering and death on the cross. After the resurrection the Son of God appears to the disciples, calling them to teach people to obey his commands. Then he sends them away and into the world he loves, promising them that he will be with them always as he is with us. Amen

Let us pray

Today we give thanks for your glory shown on the mountain of Transfiguration, where you pulled back the veil of heaven and Jesus was revealed in majesty.

You call upon each one of us to listen to him and so we open our heart to your Word and ask you by your Spirit to lead us in your ways and give us strength to follow you.

Show us how our lives may be transfigured by your presence, that the radiance of Jesus would shine through to the dark places of our world.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Today we pray that we would be transfigured to be your presence in the world. Help us to live in ways which show by our deed the words of Jesus, who was friend of the outcast and the poor.

May we be moved to think of ways of helping the vulnerable, to bring the compassion of Jesus to those who suffer, to bind up the lonely and the broken-hearted.

In these ways may we experience your presence with us in the common tasks of life.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world and those who govern, and we ask that our world leaders would seek justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for our families, our friends and for those we do not know who may be struggling today, in either body, or mind for whatever reason.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer. Amen

Hymn 465 Mission Praise

1] Meekness and majesty,
Manhood and deity,
In perfect harmony,
The man who is God:
Lord of eternity
Dwells in humanity,
Kneels in humility
And washes our feet.

*O what a mystery,
Meekness and majesty:
Bow down and worship,
For this is your God,
This is your God.*

3] Wisdom unsearchable,
God the invisible,
Love indestructible
In frailty appears,
Lord of infinity,
Stooping so tenderly,
Lifts our humanity
To the heights of His throne.

O what a mystery,....

Graham Kendrick (b. 1986)

2] Father's pure radiance,
Perfect in innocence,
Yet learns obedience
To death on a cross:
Suffering to give us life,
Conquering through sacrifice,
And, as they crucify,
Prays, 'Father, forgive'.

O what a mystery,....

Prayer

God of all creation,
Radiant with the light of your glory.
Let us know that, like your Son, Jesus,
We too are marked by your love and the focus of your delight.
Lead us to places of encounter, open our eyes to your glory,
And inspire us to tell others of your love. Amen

Blessing

And may the blessing of God the Father,
God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen