



Transfiguration Yr A – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023

*Greeter: Mehry*

*Music: Leichhardt Uniting Church*

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

On this Transfiguration Sunday

May the Lord be with you

**And also with you**

***Moment of Stillness:***

***Christ Candle:***

We light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness.

May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice  
to the world around us every day.

***Acknowledgement First Peoples:***

We acknowledge the First Peoples of this country on which we gather today;  
the Gadigal and Wangal people. And we pay our respects to their  
Elders past and present, together with all descendants.

**We commit ourselves to support Voice, Treaty, Truth – justice for First Nations Peoples.**

***Call to Worship:***

The mountain top  
the shining face  
the glowing clothes  
the voice of God speaking from the cloud  
the commandments etched in stone

Sometimes God shows up  
in ways we cannot deny  
in a place we can go  
**a light we can see**  
**a voice we can hear**  
**a stone we can touch**

Sometimes

Sometimes  
there is the veil  
the overshadowing, terrifying cloud  
the questions  
the appearing and disappearing  
the excitement  
the wondering  
the silence

Sometimes God shows up  
in ways we cannot deny.

**Always God shows up somehow.**  
**May God give us eyes to see.**

***Opening Prayer:***

Holy One, Light of light, God of all creation,  
long ago you showed yourself  
to the disciples in Jesus' transfiguration;

his face glowing like the sun on a dry, parched earth.

Shine in us, around us, and through us,  
that the world may see your glory  
in the faces of your people;  
faces transfigured in the light of your love.

**Amen**

### **Songs:**

#### **Gather Us In**

1. Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness, vanished away,  
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery;  
we are the old, who yearn for your face,  
we have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat, the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven light years away,  
but here in this space, the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in, and hold us forever;  
gather us in, and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

### **Your peace will make us one**

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord  
You are speaking truth to power, you are laying down our swords  
Replanting every vineyard 'til a brand new wine is poured  
Your peace will make us one

I've seen you in our home fires burning with a quiet light  
You are mothering and feeding in the wee hours of the night  
Your gentle love is patient, you will never fade or tire  
Your peace will make us one

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Your peace will make us one

In the beauty of the lilies, you were born across the sea  
With a glory in your bosom that is still transfiguring  
Dismantling our empires 'til each one of us is free  
Your peace will make us one

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Your peace will make us one  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Your peace will make us one

### **Prayer of Confession:**

God of strange and curious light,

Though we want to walk with You  
and see your holy radiance,  
we hide in the mist of our own desires,  
unable to perceive your presence of grace.

While we want a world of justice and peace,  
we walk in clouds of selfishness,  
unable to share Your loving-kindness.

Though we want to follow Jesus up the mountain,  
we cower in fear,  
unable to bear the light of God.

God of grace, we are sorry.

Shower us with the cleansing waters of humility,  
that we may reclaim our purpose  
and find nourishment and growth in acts of love  
to bring your kingdom in our midst

**Amen**

*Words of assurance:*

In the blazing light of God's grace,  
Jesus touches us and says,

"Your sins are forgiven"

**Thanks be to God!**

***Peace:***

The light of Christ shines brightly in the faces of our community gathered  
around us here today. Look for that light as we share Christ's peace.

May the peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

*Let's share Christ's peace with one another*

**Song: Be Thou my vision**

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and Thou only first in my heart  
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

***Moment for the young at heart: Phil***

***Bible Readings: Roger A***

### **Exodus 24:12-18**

<sup>12</sup> 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." <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> 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."

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights

## **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. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I<sup>[a]</sup> will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[b]</sup> with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup> 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 the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection:** *Chris Longfoot*

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People:** *Judith*

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**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 in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.**

**Now and forever.  
Amen**

***Community News:***

***Offering Prayer:***

As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. Use these gifts and our lives to be your light in the world

***Amen.***

***Song: Christ, be our light!***

In deepest night, shadows are lifted  
Now let your servant go forth in peace  
Your Word fulfilled, your promise honored  
Love that will never cease!

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts  
Shine through the darkness  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today

With our own eyes, we see salvation  
Within our hearts, we are set free  
Your Word made flesh, hope of the nations  
Light for the world to see!

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts  
Shine through the darkness  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today

Christ, be our hope! Christ, be our purpose!  
Christ, be our vision, radiant and bright!  
Christ, be our Way, shatt'ring our blindness  
Gifting us with your sight!

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts  
Shine through the darkness  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts  
Shine through the darkness



Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today

***Benediction & Blessing:***

Walk in light and truth.  
See the light of Christ in every face.  
Be the light of Christ to all you meet.

The blessing of God Almighty;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit  
Be upon you and remain with you always

**3-fold-amen**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: The Transfiguration - Cornelis Monsma*

*Offertory prayer: Thom Shuman <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au>*