



11th February 2024 – Transfiguration

Greeter: *Betty*

Meditation Song: Seek ye first (TIS 745)
(please remain seated)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.
alleluia, allelu, alleluia

Welcome:

Greeting:

May Christ be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

Let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within us and all around us.

Christ Candle:

In this season of Light,
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 of Country:

For this Land - **We give thanks!**

For the Gadigal and Wangal people - **We give thanks!**

We honour them for their custodianship of sacred stories, of dreamings and their connections with the deep earth and oceans.

We are grateful for the grace they have shown in extending the hand of reconciliation to us in the call to pursue justice together for a better future for all. **May we work together for justice and peace.**

Call to Worship:

Lead us up the mountain, O Beloved Child of God.

Transfigure us with your transcended holiness.

Shine upon us with your sacred illumination.

Dazzle us with your grace and compassion.

Transform us with revelation.

Change us with new insights.

Speak to us your comforting, challenging word.

Help us to know what is most faithful, most true.

**Gather us up to come down from the mountain,
and love the world.**

Opening Prayer:

Holy Christ,

Transfigure us.

Transfigure our comprehension of who you are.

Grant us that greatest of epiphanies,

the insight of the fullness of your nature.

May we find and hold you in awe and not take you for granted.

Continually humble our understandings of you,

that we might not presume to define who you might be.
Transfigure how we see you,
that we might, in relationship and friendship,
be inspired to come to know you better.
Transfigure us,
that in knowing you better we come to know your call to us better.
Transfigure us,
so that in following you and embodying your way,
our living and being might be transfigured,
as you redeem and transform us through your love and grace.
Transfigure us, Christ.
Now and always may it be so.

Amen

Hymn: Lord the light of your love (TIS 675)

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus:

Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory:
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:

mirrored here, may our lives tell your story,
shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

Prayer of Confession

Let us come before God in our prayer of confession. Let us pray:

Holy God,
when you call us to hope and to act with great boldness,
we tremble at your presence and cover our eyes.
We are afraid of what we will see
for your greatness unveils our weakness,
your justice unveils our brokenness,
and your holiness unveils our stained past.

O Lord, hear our prayer.
Giver of all grace, forgive us our sins.
Give us the strength to renounce that which hides you from us.
Give us the wisdom to work for justice and righteousness.
Give us the courage to uncover our hearts
that we might see the grace of your Son
and not lose heart.
In Jesus name we pray
Amen.

Words of Assurance:

'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.'

The light of God's love
makes us a forgiven people.
Thanks be to God!

Peace:

May the peace of Christ be always with you
And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace from where we are seated.

Hymn: God himself is present (TIS 121)

1. God himself is present,
let us now adore him
as with awe we come before him.
God is in our midst, now
in our hearts keep silence,
worshipping in deepest reverence.
Him we know,
him we name,
come and let us make him
our renewed surrender.

2. O majestic Being,
I would praise you duly
and my service render to you
in the selfsame spirit
as the holy angels,
ever standing in your presence.
Grant me now
so to strive
evermore to please you,
dearest God, in all things

3. Let your glorious light, Lord,
permeating all things,
reach my face and eyes to touch them;
as the tender flowers
open out their petals,
to the sun their hearts unfolding,
so may I,
calm in joy,
hold your rays from heaven,
power within me working.

4. Lord, make me your dwelling,
let my heart and spirit
be for you an earthly temple:

come Immediate Being,
my whole life illumine,
so I'll always praise and love you,
so where'er
I may be
there I may perceive you,
ever bow before you.

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Bible Reading: Marie

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

Second Kings 2 begins with one of the most dramatic openings in the scriptures; God's plan to sweep Elijah away to heaven in a whirlwind was already afoot. The story looms large with the miraculous and the impossible, bearing witness to the limitless power of God. The reading ends with Elijah's ascent and Elisha is left in a new role with the larger-than-life legacy of his predecessor looming over him - Elisha has his own transfiguration.

2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of prophets^[a] who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The company of prophets^[b] who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets^[c] also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water;

the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰ He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Mark 9:2-9

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one^[a] on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,^[b] one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved;^[c] listen to him!” ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Clabon

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 faithfully give for the life and mission of God's church in this place and in the world (either online or in the plate), let's pray our offering prayer.

Thank you, God of grace, for all the gifts you give us.
Help us to be gracious givers
in response to all that we have received from you.
We give these gifts of money and our lives
trusting and hoping that you will use them and us
to be your light in the world.
Amen.

Song: Jesus Christ is waiting

1. Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets.
No one is His neighbour, all alone He eats.
Listen Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me friend or stranger, fit to wait on You.
2. Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals, and real hope retreats.
Listen Lord Jesus I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with You.

3. Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets,
curing those who suffer, touching those He greets.
Listen Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like You.
4. Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred, He with love defeats.
Listen Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard, let me dance with You.
5. Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets.
"Who will join My journey? I will guide their feet."
Listen Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me, I will follow You.

Benediction & Blessing:

The love of God encircle you,
the grace of Christ enthral you,
the friendship of the Spirit enliven you.

And may Almighty God bless you;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always
3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Chris W

Acknowledgements:

Image: <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/cdri/jpeg/ACT0146.jpg>

Acknowledgement of Country: adapted National Assembly working group on worship

Call to worship – adapted: Ted Dodd, 2020

Opening Prayer ~ adapted: Jon Humphries, [Prayers that unite](#)

Prayer of confession – adapted: <https://www.stephenmfearing.com/>

Benediction – adapted: Bruce Prewer, on his [website](#)