

**Crosslacon Sunday Worship on the Last Sunday before
Lent: Transfiguration Sunday
14th February 2021**

Welcome

Call to Worship

Gathering in this sacred place
we anticipate new wonders each week.
Wherever two or three are gathered to worship,
Your Holy Spirit is present.

Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love and
wondrous joy waiting to be revealed,
even on this day, even in this place.
We will want to linger and camp in this sanctuary
but when we leave today may our hearts be open
to all the wonders of God's beautiful world.

Gathering Prayer

O Holy One,
on mountaintops and valley floors
you reveal to us the light of your love.
Our hearts desire is to bask
in the amazing glory
of the divine presence.
With each encounter we are changed and transformed.
Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion
of your Holy Spirit.
Help us, O Holy One,
to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.
May we walk among our siblings
and friends as a blessing,
bearing light into dark places,
hope to displace despair,
and love that casts out hate.
Our world is hurting and we need the followers of Jesus
to follow more closely.
Maybe then we will hear your voice
speaking to us and saying,
... "listen to my Child, the Beloved!" Amen.

Hymn: God beyond all praising

**1 O God beyond all praising,
 we worship you today
 and sing the love amazing**

**that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.**

**2 Then hear, O gracious Saviour,
 accept the love we bring,
 that we who know your favour
 may serve you as our king;
 and whether our tomorrows
 be filled with good or ill,
 we'll triumph through our sorrows
 and rise to bless you still:
 to marvel at your beauty
 and glory in your ways,
 and make a joyful duty
 our sacrifice of praise.**

*Michael Perry (1942-1996)
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Prayer of Confession

Christ was revealed in perfection to his disciples. We
come in confession to reveal our failings and flaws,
trusting in God's perfect mercy.

For the times when we fail to recognise and
acknowledge the glory of God.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

For the times when we fail to recognise and honour God
revealed in others.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

For the times when we fail to recognise and fulfil our
own God-given potential.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

The God of Elijah, the God of Moses,

and the God of Jesus
desires mercy more than sacrifice
and a contrite heart rather than burnt offerings.
May God forgive you,
Christ renew you,
And the Spirit enable you to grow in grace.
Amen.

Collect

**Holy and mighty God,
Gather us among your faithful ones,
The people of your covenant,
To stand in the light of your glory
And listen for the word of the Lord,
Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-9

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark:

Glory to you O Lord

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. He was transformed in front of them, 3 and his clothes were amazingly bright, brighter than if they had been bleached white. 4 Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with Jesus. 5 Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, “Rabbi, it’s good that we’re here. Let’s make three shrines—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 6 He said this because he didn’t know how to respond, for the three of them were terrified.

7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, “This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!” 8 Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Human One[a] had risen from the dead.

The is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

For the word of God in Jesus,

**For God’s wisdom all around us,
For God’s word and wisdom in us,
Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

With the whole church
**We affirm that we are made in God’s image,
Befriended by Christ,
Empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere,
**We affirm God’s goodness
At the heart of humanity,
Planted more deeply that all that is wrong.**

With all creation,
**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,
The unfolding purposes of God,
Forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

Prayers of Intercession (Written by Mike Graham)

Response:
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer (A modern version)

**Good caring presence within us,
around us, and above us;
Hold us in a sense of mystery and wonder.
Let the fullness of your goodness
be within us and around us;
Let all the world know your ways
of caring and generosity.
May we find we have all we need
to meet each day without undue anxiety.
Overlook our frailty and fallibility,
and help us to release everyone
from their frailty and fallibility.
May we all know that we are accepted.
Strengthen us that we will reach out
to the best, always with the faith
to rise above the ugly realities of our existence.**

And we celebrate the gifts you have given us –
the rich kingdom of life's possibilities
the power to do good and the triumphs of good
and the moments when we have seen
the glory and wonder of everything.
You are life's richness.
You are life's power.
You are life's ultimate meaning –
Amen

Sharing the Peace

God said, "Let light shine out of darkness." Let us turn
to one another with a sign of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you...
And also with you.

*As we listen to or sing the next hymn do take the
opportunity, if watching live, to record a peace greeting
on the comments box in Facebook Live.*

Hymn: Shine, Jesus, shine

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.

*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:
set us free by the truth You now bring us
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

Graham Kendrick (born 1950)

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Blessing

Now may the God who said,
"Let light shine out of darkness"
and has shone in our hearts,
give us light to bear to the world
that all may see and know that God is love.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all
this day and always, Amen

Closing Responses

Now go and tell the good news:
The Lord of life and light is with us.
Amen

Things to ponder in the week ahead.

Read these words from Thomas Merton:

"Life is this simple. We are living in a world that is
absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all
the time. This is not just a fable or a nice story. It is
true. If we abandon ourselves to God and forget
ourselves, we see it sometimes, and we see it maybe
frequently. God shows himself everywhere, in
everything – in people and in things and in nature and in
events. It becomes very obvious that God is
everywhere and in everything and we cannot be
without him. It's impossible. The only thing is, that we
don't see it. "

What have been your transfiguration moments
recently?

Can you share them with someone as an
encouragement?

Pray that God will enable you to open your eyes to see
his glory breaking into the here and now, the ordinary
and the everyday...