



Transfiguration of Jesus - Sunday March 2nd, 2025

The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Up on a hill far away
Peter, John and James
Went with Jesus.
Not expecting anything to happen.
But a moment of transfiguration
Heaven and earth kissing
And God spoke to them.

When we come to worship, what do we expect?
Do we expect to encounter God?
Are we expecting to be transformed in our lives?

Come ready to listen,
Come ready to encounter
Come ready to worship, our God together

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging



*Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress*

As we gather, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of these unceded lands and waters. We pay respect to Elders past and present. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.

Singing - Immortal invisible God only wise ***TiS 143***

OR: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty TiS 132

Prayer



God of glory,
wherever your people gather, you are there
transfiguring every moment,
providing fresh revelation,
sustaining us for the journey.

God of grace,
wherever we gather to worship you, you are
there
moving our hearts,
changing our understanding,
encouraging growth in us, no matter our age or
stage of life.

Holy God,
you call us to lay down everything
and reach for your cross,
that we may find abundant life.

Empty our hands this day,
that we may be ready
to receive the fullness of your love
and to face the future trusting you have more in
mind.
Amen

In the actions of Jesus the Christ, your sins are
forgiven, **Thanks be to God.**

I invite you to listen to the words of the song "Be Still", give space between each line and allow for silent reflection.

Be still and know that I am God
Be still and know that I am God
Be still and know that I am God

I am the Lord that healeth thee
I am the Lord that healeth thee
I am the Lord that healeth thee

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: English Traditional

Passing the peace

May the Peace of God dwell with you:
and also with you.



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Listening

Read: Exodus 34:29-35 &
Luke 9:28-36

For these words of faith
and for Jesus the Word
Thanks be to God.

Reflecting - Rev. Heather den Houting

The mountaintop experience.

Have you ever had a mountaintop experience? These are those moments of revelation, or brightness or clarity where for some reason you are in a space where things seem to be revealed to you in a fullness of understanding. Quick note! You do not have to be on a mountain to experience this. Revelation can be experienced in any place; the trick is whether you are prepared to receive it.

In the Biblical passages we read today we hear about two accounts of these mountain top experiences and the narrative is very quick to point out the extraordinary transformation that occurred as a result. As Christian disciples our interest should be to see how these moments have changed our lives, and how recognising and adapting the awesome glory of God into our lives will continue to transform us.

So, we start by Moses, who having spent 40 days and nights away from the community, returns in a spectacular manner with the covenantal tablets. He glows.

Then we have Jesus, who travelling with witnesses to the mountain top, experiences a visit from the fathers of the faith and a voice from God, and is transfigured as a result. He glows too.

So, we can tell that we have to pay attention to the fact that something transcendent has occurred in both these instances and we are invited to piece together the theological narrative that is being presented to us. Firstly, Luke makes

a clear parallel with the Old Testament narrative to drive home the theological point that the old covenant with God has been transformed by Jesus, who is the new covenant. This is the basis of our Christian faith and we should not be surprised by the approach.

Secondly, what perhaps is less obvious, but is so relevant to us today is how the people dealt with the transformative power of God in both instances. Moses had to veil himself from the human gaze. The implication being that the glory of God was so overwhelming there had to be a way of reducing the impact so that people could comprehend the message without being harmed.

Similarly, the disciples' reaction to the glory revealed to them is very pragmatic. 'Should we build tents for these people?', they ask. The narrator makes it clear that this was a clumsy response because they were overwhelmed by the revelation. And then, they did not speak of the incident – something that was almost like the veiling of the glory of God so that Jesus' work could continue without immediate harm.

This makes me think about how clumsily we can deal with the awesome power of God. Do we prefer to veil it, build tents for it, deflect it so that we can remain silent? Do we become pragmatic in dealing with transformative experiences so that we can manage the divine? Do we make God into our own image, affording God our own sensibilities?

I wonder whether a better approach might be to practice and prepare for these mountaintop experiences, knowing that while we might not be able to sustain living constantly in the fullness of God's glory, we might just be able to allow ourselves to be transformed. Where we might be ready to receive in the time of inspiration, and then having the courage of a community that reflects that glory as much as possible.

When we practice what reflecting the glory of God looks like, we might find that not only our lives are changed, but also the lives of people around us. Yes, we will not be perfect, yes, we



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will be clumsy, yes, we will be inclined to diminish it and veil it and explain it away. But the promises of God are, if we follow Jesus, the new covenant; then we participate in a glory beyond our imagining. We are invited into these mountaintop experiences to be transformed, to find those moments of inspiration and clarity. As the community of Christ, are we prepared to be transfigured by them?

Singing - Here in this place TiS 474

OR: You are holy you are whole TiS 753

OR: Author of life divine TiS 506

OR: Love divine all loves excelling TiS 217

OR: O laughing light (alt tune: CHRISTE SANCTORUM)

Offering

God who transfigures, use and bless what we offer to bring light to your world. Transfigure us until we reflect your glory. In the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Notices

March 5 is *Ash Wednesday*.

March 8 is *International Women's Day*.

Day is done

A LENTEN INVITATION - from Rev. Jennie Gordon.
Come on a Lenten journey through 40 days of poetry and wondering, with weekly expeditions into the sacred text. It's not a study, it's a journey. Where will the Spirit lead you? Where will you find yourself?

This ebook is free and downloadable from:
<https://victas.uca.org.au/weekly-worship/> under Lent 2025 Resources. If you want to get in touch, or join an online group during Lent, please email: revjenniegordon@gmail.com

Prayers for World & Community

A mountaintop encounter, shining like the sun in the kin-dom of heaven, our past, our hope, and our reality coming together as one. We thank you, O God, for this glimpse of your glory.

We thank you, too, for the other glimpses you have given us — in your creation, in your children, in our community.

Today we pray for those who struggle to see, that your light may shine on them, revealing your presence in the midst of all the challenges of this life, shielding them from the shadows of mind and heart, shadows of injustice and violence, shadows of anxiety and illness, shadows that threaten to overtake and crowd out your presence and your care.

Let your light reflect from your face to theirs.

We pray today for those who have fallen into fear, despair, or isolation, who have been overcome by the circumstances of life, pushed or trampled by others, ignored or left out or left behind.

Reach out your hand, O God, and touch them with your courage and peace, that they may be strengthened to stand in your power.

And we pray today that you would raise an expectation in us to encounter you each day to encourage us to be intentional in meeting with you, talking and listening to you.

We ask these and all things in the name of the One who calls us to lay ourselves aside to take up his abundant life, even now, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

We pray together then as Jesus taught us:

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 from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Singing - How good Lord to be here TiS 234

OR: Joy to the world TiS 268



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Blessing

I Invite you this week to create or make a sacred space in your home or garden, where you can sit or be this lent. That you will intentionally go to and seek, talk and listen to God as you pray.

May the blessing
of the Creator,
the Christ
and the Companion
be with you all,
now and always. Amen

Reflection: Rev. Heather den Houting,
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