



## Transfiguration Sunday February 15th, 2026

### The Fig Tree Worship Resource

*For the Prayers of the People, have pieces of paper and markers/pens/pencils.*

#### **Call to worship & Lighting the Candle**

However we have arrived here;  
bothered and breathless,  
from great struggles up mountains,  
calm and centred,  
drifting on the river of life,  
or somewhere in between,  
we are here together.  
We are here.

Spirit of truth, shine your light on us.  
Transform our ways into your ways.  
Open our eyes, minds and hearts.  
Dispel our fears.  
Teach us to listen and to learn.  
Take us with you.  
And all the people say: **Amen.**

*Light the candle - the shining and transforming light of Christ is with us.*

#### **Acknowledging**



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander  
Christian Congress

The Ancient of Days breathed life into this land and her peoples. From time beyond our reckoning the *(please name the people on whose land you gather)* People, the Traditional Custodians, have blessed this place through their law and customs, their care and life. We pay respects to their Elders and leaders past and present, and pray for the future of their communities. May we walk gently and respectfully on this Land.

#### **Singing - Holy, holy, holy TiS 132**

OR: Here in this place TiS 474  
You are holy, TiS 753



#### **Prayer**

All praise to you, Lord God,  
hidden majesty of light,  
voice speaking  
through the Law and the Prophets  
and speaking with us in Jesus  
your beloved Son.

Praise to you Lord Jesus,  
shining in your clothes of light,  
hidden in the man from Nazareth,  
forsaken in the Crucified One,  
brilliant in your resurrection glory.

Praise to you most holy Spirit:  
speaking to us through Scripture  
and affirming for us  
the identity and knowledge of the Son;  
calling us to walk with him  
the way of the cross;  
granting us high moments of insight  
and commitment,  
and allowing us to share with others  
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed are you Holy Trinity for ever  
and ever. Amen

God of all, we confess  
that we have failed to listen to Jesus,  
and that we have been lost,  
lost in religious distractions,  
lost in pious talk and activity  
and we have failed to recognise  
who it is who walks beside  
and shares his life with us day by day:  
your beloved Son.



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Have mercy on us  
and touch us with your Spirit

that we may know we are forgiven  
and called into newness of life,  
equipped to honour and serve you  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Dad & Daughter, Ron Gordon © 2012*

#### ***Passing the peace***

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

#### ***Listening***

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Read: Exodus 24: 12 – 18  
Mathew. 17: 1 - 9

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

#### ***Reflecting - Rev. Ian Brown***

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*"Up is not easy"*

The memory of mountain tops is often better than the experience! Getting up and then down most mountains isn't easy. It's really about the scene, and can you imagine how good the view is from the top, that keeps you going. The experience is breathtaking and probably a little dangerous!

As the years advance, more of our mountain climbing is done by car. Mt William and Mt Reed in the Grampians are so civilised that you can drive almost to the top.

I remember, years ago, a walking trip in the high plains with a school group. We pitched camp late in the afternoon, exhausted from the long hike and most started cooking, but I grabbed my camera and went off up to the nearby ridge for the view. Not quite as nearby as I thought, but in

a way that lift your spirits, it was magnificent! My dinner was just a little late!

The stories of Moses on the mountain, face glowing afterwards and Jesus' transfiguration are intentionally rich in bright imagery. Breathtaking and probably a little dangerous! But the stories are set in real places, with real people and echoes of others. They invite an exercise of imagination towards transformation and thinking about what it might mean.

I think this is more than a metaphor for the possibility of transformation. The stories are much better grounded than that. All of a sudden, we find ourselves up a mountain, half way through Jesus ministry and with just a few of the inner circle of disciples. But on this trip it's not Jesus teaching that the disciples learn from, they have to see beyond words, beyond the strange sight of a glory reflecting Jesus, to the mysterious reality that bursts through the ordinary at this moment.

God calls Moses up the mountain and he goes!! He's up there for ten chapters of Exodus - it's a big retreat. The cloud covers Mount Sinai, the glory of the Lord like a devouring fire on top of the mountain.

Moses is up there, face to face with God. Later when he comes down he has the tablets of the law and something of the radiance of God's glory still reflecting from his face.

We know Christian life - even Jesus' life, was not, is not full of glory and tremendous experience. Jesus carefully keeps his disciples' feet on the ground and then it's down the mountain and back to the hard road to the cross. This was an awesome experience to wonder at, to be stunned by and then to shed a light on the dark road ahead and illuminate the way just a little.

The transfiguration is a mysterious light pointing the way to Jesus' glory. We need a few bright spots to light the way ahead. The law and the prophets are affirmed, but there's no record of what was said between Jesus, Moses and Elijah.



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Perhaps the conversation between the law, the prophets and Jesus is the ongoing point!

The voice of God, from the cloud said, “this is my beloved son, listen to him.” We too have come to hear about Jesus, learn his ways, listen to the beloved Son of God. We come to get some direction, not seeking glory, not looking for the mountaintop experiences, but to catch a glimpse of the inexplicable mystery of God. And for some guidance, to learn more of this not easy, cross shaped discipleship for the road of life ahead; to shine some light on the way, to sustain hope and wonder.

It is not neat; there aren’t three points for a sermon or a moral from the story. There’s no conclusion drawn by the writer, just a strange warning not to tell about what happened til later. For me, this is a telling reminder that faith often has no neat edges; it comes with no instruction manual. There’s experience that is sometimes hard to comprehend!

In that clear hard light up on the mountain, Peter and his friends flounder. I’m sure it’s not because he was a dill. Even in our best moments, even where we are at the peak of our experience we can also find it hard to know what to do. Listening, experiencing the strangeness of life and then staying the course are not easy. Life is like that; at least in my experience! And Jesus sees this and says, ‘Get up, don’t be afraid, keep going.’ No explanation, the being there and the experience was it.

Mostly we are aware that we and our world are far from being perfect. We make mistakes; don’t understand what we should, like Peter, misread what’s happening around us. We feel the need for transformation. Probably, we note the need for other people’s transformation more than our own, but it’s real. And Jesus sees this too and says to us, ‘Get up, don’t be afraid, keep going.’

Others might seem to be having a great time, success or even spiritual growth, but it’s not

as easy as it seems and the evidence from inside is often as confused as Peter’s. But Jesus does notice, does invite us along and says to us, ‘Come on, get up, don’t be afraid, keep going.’ The mountain isn’t what brings us closer to God; it’s the experience, the listening, the conversation and the journey together.

What response should we make to a God revealed like this? One clue here is about being prepared to take a risk and get involved, but another must be simply to worship this awesome God. God whose glory comes and overshadows us too. Because God invites us from wherever we are, on a journey of discovery. God will meet us in Christ, notice when we have it all mixed up, help and nourish us, and light our way.

Amen.

***Singing - Lord the light of your love is shining TiS 675***

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OR: Christ upon the mountain peak TiS 243

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### ***Offering***

**Giver of life, all that we are and all that we have belongs to you. Bless these gifts we bring, and bless us, that together we might be light-bearers in the world you love. Amen.**

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### ***Notices***

Coming up this week: Shrove Tuesday (pancakes! <https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/fundraising/pancake-day/>) and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

A simple weekly Lenten study with art, poetry, prayer and discussion questions is available free to download.

It’s on the *Fig Tree Worship Resource* webpage: <https://figtreeworshipresource.blog/2026/02/03/lenten-study/> or email Jennie - [revjenniegordon@gmail.com](mailto:revjenniegordon@gmail.com)

February 20th is the World Day of Social Justice.



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#### ***Prayers for World & Community***

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*Distribute pieces of paper and markers, pens or pencils, inviting people to write some words or draw an image of a prayer they hold in their heart today. When they are ready, they can bring them to the Christ candle and place them safely around it. They may choose to speak their prayer out loud or simply leave it there. Take plenty of time, have some quiet music playing.*

Light of life, hear our prayer;  
transform the sorrow of the world into joy,  
bring peace where there is war,  
healing where there is harm,  
justice where there is oppression  
and comfort where there is fear or grief.

Shine on us, in us and through us,  
transforming the world you love,  
as we pray together then as Jesus taught us:

#### ***The Lord's Prayer***

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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 243***

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OR: Lord of all hopefulness TIS 613

#### ***Blessing***

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Spirit of truth, shine your light on us.  
Transform our ways into your ways.  
Open our eyes, minds and hearts.  
Dispel our fears.  
Teach us to listen and to learn.  
Take us with you.  
And all the people say: **Amen.**

#### *transfiguration - Matthew 17: 1-9*

there is a place  
where heaven's cloud embraces earth  
and ancients meet  
and faithful fearful fall at his feet  
where shekinah shines  
unperturbed  
untranslated  
undisturbed

there is a place  
where holy touch embraces fear  
and veils are thin  
and listening  
becomes the path where life is heard  
and ears are freshly opened  
to the word

there is a place  
where mystery's cloud embraces flesh  
within each soul  
and heaven's cry calls clear:  
you are my child  
get up  
and do not fear.

*Dad & Daughter - Jennie Gordon © 2012*

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