

[OPENING PRAYERS AND HOLY COMMUNION ARE AVAILABLE AS A VIDEO HERE](#)

PART 1 – OPENING PRAYERS

WELCOME

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His steadfast love endures for ever!
Grace and peace be with you
and also with you.

SENTENCE

Suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!' Matthew 17.5

LIGHTING THREE CANDLES

We light a light in the name of the Maker,
 who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for us
We light a light in the name of the Son,
 who saved the world and stretched out his hand to us
We light a light in the name of the Spirit,
 who encompasses the world and blesses our souls with yearning
We light three lights for the trinity of love:
God above us, God beside us, God beneath us:
the beginning, the end, the everlasting one.

CANTICLE: A SONG OF GOD'S GRACE

Based on Ephesians 1:3-6

Blessed are you,
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
for you have blessed us in Christ Jesus
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
You chose us to be yours in Christ
before the foundation of the world:
that we should be holy and blameless before you.
In love you destined us to be your children,
through Jesus Christ:
according to the purpose of your will,
To the praise of your glorious grace:
which you freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

My brothers and sisters, not out of dread and fear, but believing that God is faithful to forgive, let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done.

We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you.

Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen

**May God forgive you, Christ befriend you,
and the Spirit renew you and change your life. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God,
in the transfiguration of your Son
you confirmed the mysteries of the faith
by the witness of Moses and Elijah,
and in the voice from the cloud
you foreshadowed our adoption as your children:
make us, with Christ, heirs of your glory,
and bring us to enjoy its fullness;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

PLEASE PAUSE THE VIDEO

PART 2 — AN ALL AGE VIDEO PART 8 OF *WHERE IS GOD?* FOCUSING ON FINDING GOD EVEN WHEN WE ARE AFRAID AND DOWNLOADABLE MATERIAL FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN [HERE](#)

PART 3 — LOOK UP AND READ THROUGH THE READINGS, LISTEN TO THE [SERMON PODCAST](#) (READ ALONG IF YOU WISH) BY REV JENNIE SAVAGE, AND PRAY THE INTERCESSIONS, TODAY BY KEL TAYLOR

READINGS

Romans 12:9-21

Psalms 26:1-8

Matthew 17:1-21

SERMON BY REV JENNIE SAVAGE

Available to listen online and/or download – access via Pentecost 2020 link and notice also a reasonable library of past sermons for you to listen to as you exercise or meditate...

Matthew 17:1-21

Let us pray:

Lord, we thank you for the gift of your Word; open our hearts and our minds to your Spirit as we reflect and pray. Amen.

Mount Tabor, the traditional location of the Transfiguration, is a large round hill in central Galilee. Many pilgrims who visit there, have to get out of their bus at the bottom and then take a taxi to the top. It is said that God is especially pleased with the Mount Tabor taxi-drivers, because more praying goes on in the few minutes hurtling up or down the narrow mountain road in those cars than in the rest of the day, or possibly the week!

Apparently the view from Mount Tabor over Galilee is quite stunning. But Jesus' friends were not looking at the view. They were gazing at Jesus, shining brightly, his clothes a dazzling white, and there beside him in conversation were Elijah and Moses.

This is the only event where Jesus himself changes in a supernatural way. There are things he does or causes that are supernatural, but this revealing of himself is quite apart from those other miracles. Some suggest that Jesus was shining brightly because he was divine, and that this was a vision of his divinity, which would otherwise have remained a secret. Yet in Luke's account, he states that Moses and Elijah are shining brightly as well, and they are not divine. Jesus also taught earlier in Matthew's gospel, that all of God's people were to shine like the sun in God's kingdom.

For most of the writers of the New Testament, humanity itself is a glorious thing, and Jesus' perfect humanity provides the model for the glory which all people will one day share. If anything, the early Christians would point to Jesus' suffering and death as the mark of his divinity. And so, when we stand back, we may notice that the transfiguration scene is something of a parallel to the crucifixion scene.

Here, on a mountain, is Jesus revealed in glory; there, on a hill outside Jerusalem, is Jesus, revealed in shame. Here, his clothes are shining white; there, they have been stripped off, and the soldiers have gambled for them. ***Just to pause here too, and think about those clothes that are dazzling white: a Biblical metaphor for martyrdom.***

Here on the mountain, Jesus is flanked by Moses and Elijah, two of Israel's greatest heroes, representing the law and the prophets; there, he is flanked by two robbers.

Here, a bright cloud overshadows the scene; there, darkness comes over the land.

Here, Peter blurts out how wonderful it is to be present; there, Peter is hiding in shame after denying that he ever knew Jesus.

Here, a voice from God declares that this is his beloved son; there, a pagan soldier declares in awe, that yes, truly, this man was the son of God.

The mountain-top explains the hill-top.

The hill-top explains the mountain-top.

The glory in the cross, and the cross in the glory.

The laughter and the tears of the God who hides in the cloud, the God who becomes known in the strange person of Jesus himself.¹

We have to learn to listen to Jesus not just when all is beautiful, but also when he tells us to take up our cross and follow him.

The Transfiguration follows the scene where the disciples learn that Jesus is the Messiah, and also learn of his intention to go to Jerusalem, and of the likelihood of his arrest and death. 'God forbid it, Lord!' says Peter, 'This must never happen to you!'

I wonder if Peter gave a thought to what Moses and Elijah went through. Both had to confront powerful and oppressive regimes and their accompanying evils. The stories that lie behind Moses and Elijah are dramatic, confrontational and weighty. They indicate Jesus' mission is significant, dangerous, and important.

As they came down the mountain, the disciples question Jesus about the legend of Elijah's return. Jesus tells them Elijah has, and suffered for it, and the disciples realise Jesus was referring to John the Baptist's mission, and a sombre note is struck knowing another prophet has been struck down. The cross continually reminds us that religion, that spirituality, that having faith is not all about having a comfortable life, of being safe, untouched by the pain and suffering of the world.

This is further illustrated by the scene at the bottom of the mountain. There is chaos. The disciples are trying to pray for the healing of a sick boy, but it is not working! Who is Jesus berating as the faithless and perverse generation? The disciples, the father, or the crowd hanging around?

The disciples asked what had gone wrong, and Jesus tells them it was because of their little faith, and yet ... if they have faith only the size of a mustard seed, they will be able to move mountains.

I would suggest it is easier for our faith to get shrunk, rather than grow. We find mountaintop experiences do not last that long, and the common everyday issues get us down quicker than we would like. In this pandemic, are you wondering what our faith can do? Are you sometimes struggling to have faith?

God, in all his glory, is found in both the beauty and suffering of the world. God is not locked into an ivory tower, is not untouched, very much *not* untouched, emotionally, spiritually, even physically.

In Jesus we have seen God very much with us. The same Jesus that was transfigured in dazzling glory, is the same Jesus who hung on the cross. This is our God. And if we respond to the call of Jesus to follow him, this is us.

Let us pray,

Jesus, our Lord transfigured and crucified,

We pray for our awakening, and to recognise your transfigured presence; to live and walk with you in your light and love; to not block your journey to the cross, but to support and encourage your work for the healing and transformation of the world.

Help us to listen to what you want to say, to obey your commandments of love and compassion, and to take you at your word.

Give us grace to not be afraid, but to take up our cross, rise up to new life and follow you more closely every day for the rest of our lives. Amen.²

¹ Previous section based on writings from: Tom Wright; Matthew for Everyone Part 2 (SPCK; 2002) P.13-15

² Prayer based on: John Dear; Transfiguration (Image Books Doubleday, 2007) p.160

INTERCESSIONS BY KEL TAYLOR

Heavenly Father as your Son, who was so wonderfully transfigured on the holy mountain, gave strength to his chosen disciples, give us strength to hear your voice both as individuals and as the Body of Christ on earth. As you made us in your image, may we show forth your glory in our lives so that the knowledge of Christ may become a reality for all people. Grant your Church to order its priorities, that above all things we may seek you and your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray that you will slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus throughout our land and protect the vulnerable from its deadly touch. We pray that you will lay your healing hands upon those who are now infected and restore them to health and strength. We pray that you will comfort the families of those who have died from this disease. Fill their hearts with your presence and, where possible, gather around them friends, family and neighbours who will comfort and support them in their time of loss. We pray that you will calm the anxious hearts and troubled minds of those who now face great financial stress; we pray that you will protect them and their families from long-term economic damage. Guide them day by day and step-by-step through this crisis. We pray that you will give each one of us the calmness and wisdom we need to carry us, together, through the days, weeks and months ahead.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, open our ears that we may listen for your message in the events of our lives. As your world struggles with the devastating effects of the virus we pray you will aid and guide those who seek to develop vaccines. May our scientists work with world leaders to use science, innovation and technology not to hurt but to heal, not to destroy but to build, not to divide but to unite your human family in prosperity and dignity together.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, as the Anglican Church of Australia remembers the lives and witness of the New Guinea Martyrs next Tuesday, we pray that you will turn our weakness into strength: as you gave the Martyrs of Papua New Guinea the courage to suffer death for Christ, give us courage to live in faithful witness to you.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray for those in our community who are poor, hungry or homeless; for the lonely, the forgotten and the unwanted; for those who are sick and those who care for them. We pray for those who live in the shadow of death and we remember before you those of our Parish community who have gone to your heavenly presence. At this time we remember with thanksgiving the life and witness of George Petry whose anniversary falls at this time. When we come to our life's end, by your power forgive us our sins and raise us to new life, that, with all your Saints, we may stand for ever in your presence.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

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 for ever. Amen.

PLEASE RESUME THE VIDEO FOR HOLY COMMUNION

GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts;
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high,
for in the communion of your love
Christ comes close to us
and we come close to Christ.

Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us,
with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you.
with all the saints before and beside us, we sing to you.
we join in the song of your unending greatness.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is our brother Jesus,
who walks with us the road of our world's suffering,
and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, This is my body, given to you.

In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming Kingdom of God.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

**Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine.
May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing and making us whole.**

**And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed
again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.**

**Blessing and honour and glory and power,
are yours forever and ever. Amen**

THE BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

**We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Living God,
in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.
May the power of your love,
which we have known in word and sacrament,
continue your saving work among us,
give us courage for our pilgrimage,
and bring us to the joys you promise.**

**Father,
You sent your Son to bring us truth
and your Spirit to make us holy;
open our hearts to exalt you,
open our lives to reveal you,
our one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

BLESSING

**On our hearts and on our houses, The blessing of God.
In our coming and our going, The peace of God.
In our life and our believing, The love of God.
At our end and new beginning, Be arms of God to welcome us and bring us home. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.**