

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 14 February 2021**

Transfiguration of our Lord

'Lit from within'



St Andrew's Church, Jerusalem

Preparing for Worship

"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

Music Pastourelle

Francis Poulenc

Welcome and Call to Worship

Within the cloud and the snow-covered earth
we are invited to look through to see God.
We are invited to seek the light that welcomes
a more profound way of seeing things.

Jesus meets us here this day.
Through the sparkle of his glory
valley and mountain meet within us and become one.
So, as a people seeking to be ever more lit from within
come, let us worship God.

Hymn 678 Here is the place, now is the time

Here is the place, now is the time:
an inner voice has bid me come;

here, in the company where Christ is known,
he claims my life, he speaks my name.

Here I declare a seed of faith,
a will to learn, a gleam of truth,
and ask for singleness of heart to speak
what God has put into my mouth.

I seek the real and face the cost,
I give away my lack of trust,
in joyful hope I take the Spirit's lead;
I go with all who follow Christ.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Suantrai

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Radiant God, source of light,
as You surrounded Jesus with Your glory,
so You come to us in penetrating brightness.

God of glory, You have revealed
the glory of Jesus, Your beloved Son.
Help us see Him as He truly is.

God of glory, You are under no illusions about us.
You see beyond the masks we wear for the world.
So often we gravitate towards the limelight
when you call us to brighten the shadows.
We seek to stay on the mountain,
while you walk to the valleys of need.

Let us never grow weary of giving thanks
for Your presence with us each and every day.
Forgive us when we do not recognise the ways
You have revealed Yourself to us.
Forgive us when a constant diet of bad news blinds us
to Your ongoing activity in the world.
Forgive us when we have denied Your glory.

Assurance of Pardon

Thom Shuman (adapted)

**On mountaintops and in valleys, in our
homes and in our hearts, God knows us
better than we know ourselves, and God
forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves.**

By God's mercy, we are forgiven;
by God's mercy, we are made whole;
by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others.

We join together in the prayer that Jesus taught, praying it may strengthen us to let our
light shine and so bear witness to your presence in our everyday lives.

**Our Father in heaven.
 Hallowed be your name
 Your kingdom come,
 Your will be done,
 on earth as it is 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.**

Scripture Reading Mark 9:2-9 (NRSV)

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, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

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.

Reflection 1 Two disciples reflect

A dialogue by Carol Dixon (adapted)

Hymn This little light of mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
 this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
 this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine...

Words: Traditional
 Music: Spiritual

Reflection 2 Seeing with transfiguration eyes

Anthem Christ, whose glory fills the skies

Christ, whose glory fills the sky,
 fill us with radiance and scatter darkness from our path.
 Christ, the dayspring from on high,
 draw near to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Music: Andrew Carvel (2015)

Reflection 3 Travel testimony from the Holy Land

Hymn 200 Christ is made the sure foundation (vv,1,2)

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever,
and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today:
with your constant loving-kindness,
hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

Prayers of the People

Ever loving God,
we pray for your Church, as Christian communities all across Scotland and the
world face new challenges and pain and an uncertain future.
On the threshold of Lent,
may all people know they are lit from within.

We pray for the people of the world whose names we will never know,
for those living in fear,
those who have had to flee their homeland,
those who are marginalised because of their sexuality, race or gender.
On the threshold of Lent,
may all people know they are lit from within.

We pray for our planet whose fragile resources we take for granted and misuse.
Help us to use this time of reflection to change our ways
and strive for a fairer distribution of your bounty.
Renew and restore a vision of care for your creation.
On the threshold of Lent,
may all people know they are lit from within.

We pray for all who bear quiet witness to your love,
those close to us and far away, coping as well as they can.
Help us to be like Peter, James and John,
that we may come down from the mountain
and set one foot in front of the other
in your name and for your sake. Amen.

Hymn 200 Christ is made the sure foundation (vv3,4)

Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain,
what they gain from you forever

with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

Praise and honour to the Father,
praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory
while unending ages run.

7th or 8th century

Translated John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Blessing

In the coming week,
may you experience the presence of God with joy.
May the holy cloud comfort you.
May the divine voice encourage you.
May the power of the Spirit
light your way from within and without.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this day, and evermore. Amen.

Organ Music Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux L.-N. Clérambault

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee, Pam Russell, George Russell

Dialogue: Caitlin and Matthew Wright

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

Vocal ensemble: Eleanor Cozens, Eleanor Wilson, Caitlin McGillivray, Drew Crichton,
Andrew Carvel

Pianist: Drew Crichton

Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott

Sources:

Photo credits: Pam Russell

Dialogue: Transfiguration: A Disciple Reflects by Carol Dixon from Acorns and Archangels.
WGRG, p18-19.

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