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TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY A

19th February 2023

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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God of the waters and the mountains
God of the fires and the forests
God of the skies and the earth
God who loves all of your creation, I come to you this day.

Here I am Lord, seeking to learn more of you,
To love you.
As I come, broken as I am,
Come Lord Jesus, be my end and my beginning
Bring your perfect love, your love divine.
I have come, come Lord Jesus.

[Pause. Take a breath or two. If you have time, you might like to go outside or find a view of nature, and then pray this prayer again.]

Amen.

You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a translation or version with which you are most familiar.

Hymn:

Everlasting Arms – with Lou Fellingham and the National Methodist Choir - [YouTube](#)

Reading: Matthew 17:1-9 – [Click for reading](#)

Response to the reading

How often do you find yourself able to pause for a moment in awe and wonder? How often are you enchanted by the world around you?

Transfiguration Sunday marks the transition between the season of Epiphany and the season of Lent. Epiphany is a season where we remember the ways Jesus was revealed to the gentiles, most notably the Magi who came from the east to the stable to see the newborn Christ. Lent is a season where we remember Jesus in the desert at the very beginning of his ministry. As a society, we're very good at embracing the magic of the Christmas season, but once we've taken down the tree, recycled the cards, and packed up the crib scene we can easily slip back into an expectation of mundanity in our everyday lives. And then, in the season of Lent, we take that a step further and root out any whiff of extravagance. But here, just before we slip into the wilderness of Lent, we're reminded by Transfiguration Sunday to pay attention to the inexplicable acts of God all around us and to stand in awe and wonder at the mystery of them.

The Celtic Christians speak of 'thin places' where heaven and earth are closer, where God feels more tangible, where spiritual experiences happen more easily, where our stuffy, logical, reasonable, busy minds are quieted enough to notice the divine permeating the place. Today's scriptures feature such thin places. Do you have a thin place you can go, where you expect to meet with God? It might be a small space in our home or community, it might be a church, or a location outdoors. Perhaps you've already found such a place, and have met with God there. Transfiguration Sunday and our mystical reading of its story, bids you to make room in your lives for visiting such a place. As Peter's epistle tells us: "You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place." It is our task to seek out the lamp, even when our lives feel

dark. So, find your own sacred space and go there, with the expectation of having an extraordinary encounter. Go there, ready to sit in awe and wonder in union with God. Go there, with your eyes and hearts and minds open to how God might be seeking to transfigure you and the world around you.

- What do you first think of when you hear the word transfiguration?
- How often are you enchanted by the world around you?
- Do you have a thin place you can go, where you expect to meet with God?
- In what ways are you able to be present to the presence of God all around you?¹

Hymn:

362 STF – Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity - [YouTube](#)

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Blessing

Go out to meet a God of love.

Go out and find love at work throughout God's creation.

Go out and seek to build a better, safer, more sustainable world,

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 20th February

- God of love,
Today I pray for refugees and exiles all around the world,
Those who are living in fear and have fled the place they call home.
Show me how to show love to those in need,
To be a place of sanctuary to all who encounter me,
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Tuesday 21st February

- What does the good news of the Gospel feel like to you?
- Can you express it as a prayer of thanks in just a sentence or two?
- Once you have chosen or written your sentences, why not find someone to share that prayer with – as a text, or over the phone, or via email, or by chatting to someone today.

¹ Reflection written by Holly Adams

Wednesday 22nd February

- Go outdoors and find something natural: a stone, leaf, flower, or something else.
- Consider the ways God has made this thing and then reflect on how you too are wonderfully made by God. What does this mean to you?

Thursday 23rd February

- Go litter picking.
- Each bit of litter you pick up is working to bring God's Kingdom in that place.
- As you pick up the litter pray about what it might mean for God's will for this street, this community, this village / town / city to be done.

Friday 24th February

- Think about how God is at work in the lives of everyone.
- You can see God shining out from all people.
- Remember this with the next person you speak to, and give thanks for the glimpses of God you see in them.

Saturday 25th January

- Do you have a favourite poem or song?
- It doesn't have to be explicitly Christian. Consider the ways the good news of God is communicated through the words.
- If it helps, use these words as a prayer today, perhaps humming or repeating them over and over again during the day.