

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
19 FEBRUARY 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP

We do not know what to say,
For we are afraid.
But a cloud overshadows us,
And a voice comes to us—
“This is my son, the Beloved; listen to him!”
May we listen today!

Together in Song 155 (Adapted)

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy Hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe
displayed:**

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to
thee,
How great Thou art! how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to
thee,
How great Thou art! how great Thou art!*

**When through the woods and forest glades I
wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain
grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle
breeze,**

**And then I look at love displayed in Jesus
who lived and served, sharing amazing
grace:
he brought new life and hope to many people
and challenged wrongs that had for ages
stood.**

PRAYER

ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING WORD

Matthew 17:1-9 The Transfiguration

17 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling

white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’ ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’ ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

May your Word live in us
And bear much fruit to your glory.

SONG

**Who is this, whose face shines brighter
than a thousand summer suns?
Who is this, who speaks with prophets,
preachers, leaders, ancient ones?
This is he, who won't seize power,
sets his face to suffering.
Listen! This is God's Beloved!
Hear him! Serve him! Follow him!**

**Who is this, who feeds the hungry,
opens eyes, and drives out pain?
Who is this, who casts out demons,
frees the cursed from every chain?
To the powers, he stands defiant,
to the outcast, opens arms.
See him! This is God's Beloved!
Watch him! Serve him! Follow him!**

**Who is this, whose footsteps echo,
calling us down city streets?
Who speaks truth to power, and ever
power displays when washing feet?
Always healing, always asking,
“Do you know yet who I am?”
Kneel before the Lord's Beloved!
Rise and serve him! Follow him!**

*(Words: © Vince Gilbert)
Metre: 87.87.D*

REFLECTION

RESPONDING WITH OUR LIVES

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

We remember that the Transfigured One moves back down the mountain with the realization of suffering to come. Let us remember that we follow Jesus not only up the mountain for dramatic moments and spiritual highs but we also walk forward with him into the world's suffering. After all, it's often there that we are transfigured. Let us pray:

RESPONSE:

Loving God, touch our lives:
And transfigure us

(You will be invited to light a candle as a symbol of your prayer.)

Disciples' 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**

Together in Song 613

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can
destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of
the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the
plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the
noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to
embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of
the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose
presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we
pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of
the day.**

*Traditional Irish Tune
Lyrics by Jan Struther, 1931*

A sending out prayer:

**Lord of light, we go in your name
to bring your glory into our world.
May we shine with the joy, peace,
and hope of your Holy Spirit,
so that people see in us
the face and glory of Jesus Christ.**

BLESSING

Together in Song 781

**Father, bless us as we go.
Jesus, walk beside us.
Holy Spirit, guide us.**