



## 'Worship at home' February 19<sup>th</sup> 2023

Today we reflect on the  
**Transfiguration of Jesus**,  
as God's light shines upon him  
revealing his true nature.  
**Light a candle** to remind you  
of God's light in our world.



*Transfiguration of Jesus*  
Carl Bloch 1872 Public domain

### Opening

God, you call us to worship:

we come to be nourished, to be renewed,  
to grow in faith.

God, you are revealed in our world:

sometimes in shining glory,  
sometimes in tears and struggle.

God as we worship you:

open our eyes to see you anew,  
that your grace may be made known among us.

~ adapted from prayer by Rev Gord <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>

Over the season of Epiphany, we have considered the many ways in which the presence of God is revealed in our world, sometimes in surprising and unexpected ways. Today's Scripture story of the **transfiguration** shows Jesus' revealing God's glory, as his disciples see him shining with the light of God as he prays. The word *transfiguration* means 'a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state'. The original Greek word used in the Scriptures is *metamorphoea*, meaning 'to transform', or 'to change form'. More precisely, this word implies not simply an outward change of appearance, but to change the outside so that it matches the inward reality. Jesus' divine nature, hidden in his humanity, is revealed outwardly: a glimpse of the glory of God.



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

*Six days later Jesus took with him Peter and the brothers James and John and led them up a high mountain where they were alone. As they looked on, a change came over Jesus: his face was shining like the sun, and his clothes were dazzling white. Then the three disciples saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. So Peter spoke up and said to Jesus, "Lord, how good it is that we are here! If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was talking, a shining cloud*

*came over them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased - listen to him!" When the disciples heard the voice, they were so terrified that they threw themselves face downward on the ground. Jesus came to them and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid!" So they looked up and saw no one there but Jesus. As they came down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Don't tell anyone about this vision you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from death."*

*Good News Bible*

These events are difficult to understand. It has been suggested that this story is meant to be savoured as presented, rather than to be explained. There are moments when we experience God's presence in amazing ways.



<http://caitlinrussell.org/tag/transfiguration/>

**When have you experienced the presence of God, perhaps in a surprising or unexpected way?**

Sometimes we experience God in such a powerful or dramatic way that we are changed... we see things in a new or different way. We can imagine that those who witnessed these events came to a new and different understanding of who Jesus was. Firstly associating him with Moses and Elijah, the great fathers 2

of their faith, they suggest building a tabernacle as a permanent memorial of the event. Even without understanding what was going on, they realise the significance of their experience. Then they are told not to tell anyone what they had seen.

**Have you ever experienced something so special that you found it difficult to put into words?**

The glory of God is indescribable and uncontainable. Such revelations of who God is cannot be reduced to words.



**What words might you use to describe God to someone who has not experienced the presence of God for themselves?**

The glory of God is indescribable, and difficult to comprehend. However, we can see and understand the outward display of life and love that is manifest when we base our lives on Christ. When we come into relationship with Christ, we are changed, and we respond in new and different ways. We are called to shine the light of God's presence to those around us.



Coventry Cathedral - John Piper's baptistery window,  
<http://diqlib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54907>

**Prayer**

Great God of dazzling beauty and overshadowing majesty,  
in Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,  
we glimpse the image of your glory.  
Teach us to listen to him  
so that we may hear your voice  
and follow your holy way;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.** — from [Prayers for the Transfiguration](#), posted on the [PCUSA](#) website

## Prayer

God of glory,  
you revealed yourself in the glory of Jesus,  
your beloved Son,  
as he prayed on the mountain  
with his friends.



We do not live on mountaintops,  
but we, too, would glimpse your glory  
in the ordinary days of our lives,  
and in the community of your Son  
in which you have chosen to dwell.

We look for you among people who have  
no power                      no rights                      no voice.

We look for you among those who  
live on the streets of our city,  
whose housing is inadequate,  
whose homes are not safe.

We look for you among those who  
grieve a past that is no more  
and fear a future that seems full of loss.

God who meets us in the broken places,  
shine the light of Christ deep into our lives,  
so we may carry that light into dark places  
and point to the One

whose brokenness is our salvation.

*- adapted from Christine Jerrett*

<https://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/>

## Closing

Go now	sure in your faith
with eyes wide open	and waiting for God's glory
to surprise you	in unexpected ways
And the blessing of God	
Father, Son and Spirit	Mystery, Sign and Hope
be with you	and those whose lives you touch
now and always	Amen

~ Rev Sandi McGill <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>