

SONG: HaND 67

Mountains and Valleys

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Music: "Alexander" - Norman Inglis

Stand up-on the moun-tain peak; hear the grav-id still-ness speak;
watch the gold-en dawn a-wake; think of jour-neys love may take;
pause to breathe the mist-y air; see God's glo-ry dwell-ing there.

1. Stand upon a mountain peak;
hear the gravid stillness speak;
watch the golden dawn awake;
think of journeys love may take;
pause to breathe the misty air;
see God's glory dwelling there.

2. Hear the words of blessing fall;
sense a presence, touching all;
feel joy stirring deep within;
see transfigured life begin;
pause to breathe a thankful prayer;
see God's glory dwelling there.

3. Gaze upon the world below;
hear the cries of human woe;
take the path to valleys deep;
share the grief of all who weep;
pause to offer love and care;
see God's glory dwelling there.

4. Live with mindfulness and grace;
name each vale as sacred space;
share the warmth of love divine;
see shekinah's beauty shine;
love the complex world we share;
know God's glory dwelling there.

(shekinah - presence, blessing and glory of God)

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Music: "Alexander" Norman Inglis

Please help us to comply with the COVID-SAFE Regulations by wiping the areas you have touched on the pews, after the service. Thank you for your assistance.

Please join us for a cuppa and conversation in the Hall after the service.

This service was prepared by Sandy Boyce, with musicians led by Norm Inglis with Jenny Ward (piano), singers Alison McDougall, Colin Telfer, Bronwen Blight, Noel Holmes, Peter Muller and Michael Heathcote, and supported by instrumentalists Genevieve Bassani, Jeff Telfer, Don Bell and Ruth Farrent.



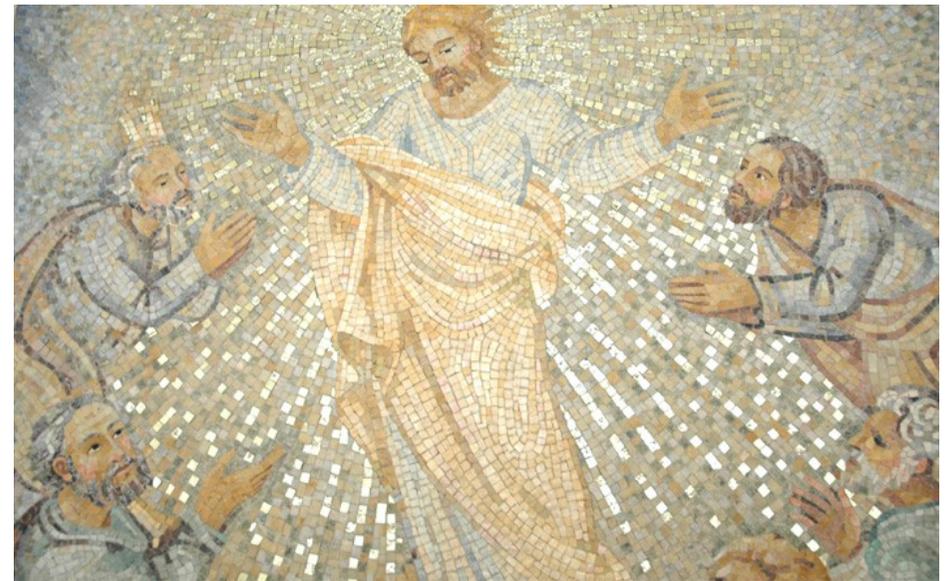
Pilgrim
Uniting Church

9.30am
Community Worship

Sunday, 14th February 2021

Transfiguration
COCU14B

This church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church. To receive most benefit, hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting



The community candles are lit

GATHERING

Here we are in a time and place which makes God's own self known. A space for a heartening glimpse of blessing. *(Karan Hudson)*

May we give way to glory, O God
may we let the light tangle with our lives
that we may see what you see in us, may we see what you see
a love born in eternity that finds a home in our souls
and wants to be there, a word that lifts itself
from page into life and tells a story that begins with itself.

May we see what you see
a vision that brings past and future
into the one meeting place and offers it all as present
a wisdom born of generations where time nurtures the promise
and the longings of believers
wondering if this will be the generation that breaks it open
May we give way to glory
and dare its splendor to rekindle our faith and transfigure our lives.
Amen. *Roddy Hamilton, Listening to the Stones)*

SONG: TiS 474 Here in this place vv 1,2,4

1
Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of your name.

2
We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
we are the old, who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

4
Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in, and hold us for ever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Words and music: Marty Haugen 1950-

WELCOME

But, we also hear the songs of creation in the world: songs of wonder and awe; songs of re-creation and new life.

God of grace and gladness, enable us to hear.

With the love of God in Christ, we are moved to touch as Jesus touched, offering God's grace to the destitute, the outcast, the enemy and the stranger. No longer complacent: we ourselves are touched by the life and the plight of every creature.

God of grace and gladness, enable us to touch.

Following Jesus in service we serve those left behind: the 'collateral damage', 'the bottom of the heap', the 'too hard'. Together, we serve to build communities of hope, places of generosity, hospitality, grace. Because the reign of God is here.

God of grace and gladness, enable us to serve.

Moved by the prophets and called to do justice, God's Spirit opens our mouths to speak the truth about ourselves, about our world. The love of God is a challenge to the brokenness of the world, to violence, prejudice, greed and fear. We speak out for justice and witness to a different way of life. We speak of peace and mercy, reconciliation and transformation.

God of grace and gladness, enable us to speak.

Jesus Christ, living word of God, enable us to confront life, to know life and to embrace life in all its tragedy and pain, glory and wonder. Help us to not retreat into a closed world, a closed faith and a small God. You set us free to see and hear the world as it truly is, to touch the world, to live as one with it. You set us free to serve others, to honour the planet, to speak out for justice with the love of God in our hearts.

God of gladness and grace, live within our hearts and minds that we may live with grace and gladness, in your love and in your service, all the days of our lives. Amen. *Elenie Poulos, Uniting Justice*

SONG: HaND 67 Mountains and Valleys (see Page 6)

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

This is where we take our leave and return to the regular rhythm of our lives.

In the week ahead,
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 transform you,
transform us, transform our world. Amen.

(Source: Joanna Harader, Spacious Faith)

God's peace be with you.

And also with you.

A COVID safe sign of the peace is shared.

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.

A READING FOR THREE VOICES:

Dazzling God: A Transfiguration Sunday Readers' Theatre
(Allegra Friesen Epp, https://www.commonword.ca/FileDownload/23920/Dazzling_God.pdf)

WITNESS

A time for quiet reflection

OFFERING PRAYER

Our offerings, small and large, are made with the hope and confidence that all we do, all we offer, all we say, all we think and all we hope will take root in this world and be the source of new expressions of God's love, of God's justice, of God's character, of God's mission, and of God's reign. May God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven through us, alongside us, despite us, and for us. Amen.

(adapted from a prayer on Mustard Seed)

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

People in the Ancient Near East regarded mountains in this way: "With its head reaching toward the heavens, the mountain or high place is the bridge between earth, the realm of humans, and the heavens, the realm of the gods. As such, a mountain is the place for a divine encounter."

(Judy Fentress-Williams)

Gaze upon the earth below; hear the cries of human woe;
take the path to valleys deep; share the grief of all who weep;
pause to offer love and care; see God's glory dwelling there.

(Helen Wiltshire)

When we see with the eyes of God, we see the brokenness of life:
the pain on people's faces etched by loneliness, lined by grief, coloured
by illness; the damage of systems, structures, institutions, breeding
isolation, poverty, and apathy.

But, we also see life beyond the surface, the dignity of every human
being, every person made in God's image, loved by God, a child of God.
Jesus in every face.

God of grace and gladness, enable us to see.

With God's Spirit in our hearts we hear the groans of creation:
the environment plundered, polluted and abused, animals and plants
disappearing forever. We hear the groans of those who are despised,
persecuted and violated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

Mountains are mentioned frequently in the Bible because mountains dotted the landscape of biblical regions. They are a physical reality, and also have a significant symbolic value since they are "closer to God" who was believed to dwell in the heavens (as in the sky).

As a result, God-self is often revealed on a mountaintop. For the Aboriginal peoples of this land, there is also deeply symbolic value in the features of the landscape - trees, rivers, mountains, rocks. Their traditional stories tell significant truths within the local landscape. The whole of the Australian continent's topography is layered with cultural nuance and deeper meaning. The landscape itself is imbued with spiritual value. We acknowledge that the site of this church is placed adjacent to Tardanyangga (Victoria Square), which is the site of ceremony and ritual of the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains. We are awed that they celebrated the religious significance of place, plant and all living creatures; and that care for the earth was implanted in their law. We honour them and also delight in the sacred in our midst. We pray that in the power of the Holy Spirit we might work together for reconciliation and justice in this land.

EARLY WORD Valentine's Day

SONG: In the love of God we gather

1
In the love of God we gather,
wooing, fulsome, strong and free.
Through the veil of faith we enter
drawn and held by Mystery.
Wounded by the trials of living,
buoyed by hope that will not end;
We, a people of compassion,
lift our eyes to rise again.

2
T'ward the light of Christ we open,
reaching for his flames of peace.
Hearts affected, grace resurgent
lived, and breathed creatively:
Parent, poet, teacher, farmer -
calls to share the Gift made known:
Currents of the deepest river,
coursing outwards to the Sea.

3
Through the beauty of the Spirit
by a love that moves the stars,
we will find our truth and calling
in God's love-song to this world.
Justice, mercy, peace and daring;
these shall be our heart's desire!
Folded into daily practice,
faith refined through holy fire.

Words: Sean Gilbert;
Tune: 87.87D Abbot's Leigh
Cyril Vincent Taylor 1907-91

READING: Mark 9: 2-9

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