

Sunday Worship at Home 14th February 2021 Sunday next before Lent

Opening Prayers:

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence

that we may behold your power and glory.

Invitation to confession:

Jesus says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand".

So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,

confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you came to earth to tell us how much God loves us:

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus, you came to earth to teach us how to say sorry:

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you came to earth so our sins could be forgiven:

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

Holy God, You know the disorder of our sinful lives.

Set straight our crooked hearts and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory,

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel 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 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 anymore, 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Reflection on the Gospel. In just a few days we embark on our Lenten journey of self-denial and repentance, but today our attention is taken to a mountain top spectacular where the innermost circle of disciples have accompanied Jesus to the mountain top and they are about to get an awesome insight of what is to come. Before their eyes, Jesus was transformed and his clothes became a dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. Then Moses and Elijah appear in conversation with Jesus in deference of Jesus' fulfilment of both the law and the prophets, the disciples must have been overawed but more was to come.

From a cloud, the disciples hear God's voice say, "This is my son, the Beloved, listen to him." For the first time, the terrified disciples see Jesus as he truly is – the Son of God.

They are so amazed they don't want the experience to end, but suddenly they are alone once more with just Jesus, their special moment is gone. Truly great moments occur in everyone's life. Falling in love for the first time, seeing more than just another person, but coming face to face with the mystery of love.

Holding your newly born child, you see more than a baby, you see the mystery of life itself. Holding the hand of someone about to die and be carried to a new life, we face the mystery of death.

Events like these are moments of transfiguration or change, each one distinct and unrepeatable, yet each one glows with the presence of God, they are pure grace and cannot be fabricated. They are moments of union with God, another person and ourselves, nothing else matters and we can only treasure the experience in our hearts. That was the amazing experience shared by Peter, James and John, they looked and saw Jesus alone in his glory for the first time. Yet it wasn't Jesus that had changed, he was always so, it was they themselves who were changed by what they had experienced. If we are prepared to journey with God, to listen for his voice and open our eyes to the light he brings to the world, we too can be changed and share in moments of glory. Not only will we see his light, but we will become his light, the light that draws others to him so that they too can see themselves and the world transfigured. Amen

The Creed

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Be still in the presence of pray and listen: Include the needs of the world and your family and community. |The work of the Government, and the health of the Queen . Those who suffer and find no consolation, the homeless and those who have lost their jobs, those grieving for their old way of life.

Pray for comfort and peace for those who are ill or awaiting hospital appointments and operations, give thanks for all doctors, physicians and nurses and all whose work is to make us well in body and mind.

Give thanks for the world's scientists for the vaccine so quickly developed, and all those who administer it and distribute it. Pray for the souls of those who have died, especially Vincent Grove, giving thanks for the life he led and the memories he left behind. Pray for strength and consolation for Pam, Jonathan and Christopher and all the family as they await his funeral in March.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses. As we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen.

Amen

Blessing:

God our Father, help us this Advent to watch out for your Son so that when he comes at Christmas he may find us ready to welcome him, and the blessing of God the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you, and all those you love, today and always.

Amen

Reverend Irene