

The Methodist Church

Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit

Worship at Home
Sunday March 13th 2022

Welcome

Welcome to our Service at Home this week. This Sunday is the second Sunday in Lent and we will be looking at the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Opening Prayer

Lord God, open our hearts today and every day to hear your voice and learn your ways

Hymn StF 608

<https://youtu.be/u2Qhk8zl7Jo>

1 All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.

2 He bids us build each other up;
and gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope,
we hand in hand go on.

3 The gift which he on one bestows
we all delight to prove;
the grace through every vessel flows,
in purest streams of love.

4 Even now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree;
concentred all, through Jesus' name,
in perfect harmony.

5 We all partake the joy of one,
the common peace we feel,
a peace to sensual minds unknown,
a joy unspeakable.

6 And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
What height of rapture shall we know
When round his throne we meet.

Prayers

Father, as we come before you today in the name of Jesus, we declare that you

are God and it is our desire to see you and to know your power and your glory. Father, your love is greater than life and we will glorify you. We will praise you as long as we live and in your name we will lift up our hands. you have given us all we need and we will give you praise.

You are the king of heaven and earth. All of heaven sings of your glory. You do wonders on earth and in heaven and we see the work of your hands in all that is

Forgive us Lord if we have stumbled as we us as we strive to live our lives in honour of you and strengthen us to walk your ways more closely.

We have gathered in fellowship in your presence. As we continue today's service, wherever we are and in whatever way we are meeting, alone or in a group, on the internet or in our homes, we desire to feel your great power and light. Let us encounter you in a new way and bless us in our lives. May we find everlasting joy through you.

Amen

Reading **Luke 9: 28-36**

The Transfiguration

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice

that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Hymn StF 547

<https://youtu.be/A2eIEBTNsic>

Beyond these walls of worship
In the stress and joy of life
Can we offer you our bodies
As a living sacrifice
Will we keep you at the centre
Far beyond the Sunday call
Will we turn to you
Be transformed by you
Still declare you God of all?

Beyond these walls of worship
In the times of work and rest
Will we display your love for all
When our faith's put to the test
When the people that surround us
Deny that you are there
Will we display our faith in you
In life, in praise, in prayer?

Beyond these walls of worship
May your Spirit strengthen us
To make the whole of life and worship
As we witness to your love
From this hour in your presence
Send us out now to proclaim
That we'll live our life as sacrifice
To the glory of your name

Reflection

In this second Sunday in Lent, as we reflect of who Jesus is, we are encouraged to explore the Transfiguration. That moment that is so pivotal in the gospels. A point where we read how Jesus' true and real nature was revealed to those around Him.

Today I want to explore for a time the real importance of this short event in Jesus' life. Mark, Matthew and Luke all record this event in the same detail, and at the same time in Jesus time on earth.

For you and I it is an important key to our beliefs and reminder of our relationship

with Jesus because it answers the question 'Who is Jesus' and provides for us a clear instruction.

Let's take a bit of time to put this section of Luke's Gospel into context.

Jesus has been preaching and teaching in the area for a while. He has gained a reputation for healing, Peter's Mother-in-law and lepers, paralysed people and the Blind. He had walked on water, He has been followed by many, and fed 5000 people at a time and he has annoyed the lawgivers by telling them that they don't understand the purpose of the Law.

And just 6 days before this event Jesus and His followers were together in Caesarea-Philippi, a pagan city with lots of Gods, and Jesus asked the question – Who do people think I am? People were asking questions of this new teacher.

When Jesus asks his disciples "Who do people say I am" Peter called Jesus the Christ (Greek) or Messiah (Hebrew) both mean Anointed One.

So we see the people know (or at least know of) Jesus. They are talking about Him, asking questions, developing ideas and theories of who He is and what His purpose is.

And so we come, 6 days after Peter's announcement to this point on a high mountain.

The mountain is probably Mount Hermon, about 20 miles from Caesarea-Philippi, and if it is this one then it is the only mountain in that part of the world to have snow on it so we know it was quite high (over 7000 feet at the summit) Not an easy walk

Whilst the four of them were there, Jesus with Peter, James and John the transfiguration happened.

Suddenly Jesus' clothes appeared whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them, dazzling we are told, and two other people on this mountain with Him, long

ago taken from the earth. One a very earthly death, one a dramatic taken from the earth in a whirlwind of fire and horses and chariots.

And these two are key to our understanding of Jesus from now on. This is the turning point, and the answer to all the questions asked by the people.

Moses

Chosen by God to Lead the people, Gave them Gods rules for living, interceded on behalf of the people, disciplined and encouraged. Then introduced the people to the land that God has reserved for them

The other on the mountain was Elijah

Elijah

Chosen by God to bring His word to the kings and people.

In many ways the purpose of the Prophet was to help the people understand HOW the Law was to be understood. The Prophets often called the kings to book because they were using the Law wrongly, or falling away from it.

Single minded, Put himself second to Gods work, Willing to Take risks in faith for instance in the showdown with prophets of Baal, Listened to God.

In some ways John the Baptist echoes Elijah's ministry, and was sometimes referred to as 'The Prophet' Elijah did not die an earthly death, he was taken up to heaven and this was seen as a sign that Elijah was especially important to God as a prophet.

These two were present with Jesus when the disciples were there.

It is no wonder that Peter was frightened and began to panic a bit. All that Peter would have heard as a young Jew growing up. The stories of the big journey led by Moses, the exploits of the great Prophet Elijah. These people would be more than just hero's they were the two people who were fundamental in the

whole nation of Israel. The Law giver and the Prophet.

It might be like you and I going for a walk with a friend and them meeting with say The Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Sir Bob Geldolf as if they were just old friends. Can you imagine what you might feel?

Poor Peter, Tongue tied, not sure of what to do.

Then in the presence of these two great leaders of Gods people God's own voice is heard.

God – This is my Son whom I love, listen to Him

In the presence of Gods representative of the Law, and the Interpreter of the Law, Authority is given to this teacher, preacher, worker of miracles.

And in three key ways

This is my SON –
God announces that this person on this mountain is not just another human being but is in full and fact His Son.
A direct connection between Humanity and God.

- Whom I LOVE -

God's affirmation of Jesus. Adam was Gods son too, Adam lost Gods love through disobedience. God could not work through Adam because of this. Jesus was different. He had obeyed all that God had called him for and this meant that God could announce Jesus perfection as an emotion, the pure emotion of Love.

Then comes the really important part for you and I, this is the turning point.

LISTEN TO HIM

God says.

In the presence of
Elijah the Prophet and Moses the Leader /
Law giver God says to the disciples

LISTEN TO JESUS

Not Listen to Moses or Listen to Elijah.
Not Listen to Moses, Elijah and Jesus.
Just Listen to My Son whom I love.

Does this mean that the message of
Moses and Elijah have no purpose from
now on? Not at all!

In the presence of both of these two keys
to the beliefs at that time God announces
that this living Jesus has authority above
both the Law and the Prophets.

Jesus himself said that he came to
FULFIL the Law, not to REPLACE it.

Can the message for us be any clearer
today

LISTEN TO JESUS

Jesus has authority over the Law, **and** the
Interpretation of the Law. How better to
understand Gods will than to Listen to Him
who has full authority over both

And there is our instruction from God. Not
a choice for you and I, not a suggestion,
but a direct order.

LISTEN TO HIM

Over the next few weeks, and as we move
through Lent with all its meaning of giving
up and sacrifice, it would be good to
determine to Listen to Jesus,

Perhaps to make as part of your Lent
promise, to set aside some time to obey
Gods command to

LISTEN TO HIM

Amen

Prayer

Lord our loving God, help us to listen to
you as we go about our daily lives. Your
voice speaks not just in the awesome
moments but also in the everyday. Help
us to hear once again your voice and your
call.

Amen

Prayers for other places and situations

Take a moment in quiet, allow your inner
voices to still and allow only His voice to
be guide you in what to pray.

Our last hymn reflect that as we Listen to
our Saviour so we will also know Him
purposes.

Hymn StF 504

<https://youtu.be/045Cm8MhW7U>

May the mind of Christ, my Saviour,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His pow'r.

May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

Blessing

As we go from this place of worship and
into the life you call us, may we hear ever
more clearly your voice as it calls us to your
purposes

Amen