

Order of Service – 19.02.2023 – Transfiguration

Opening verse:

Jesus touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” *Matthew 17:7*

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Amelia

Good morning, as we gather together, resting our bodies on timber that was carefully shaped by skillful hands into seats that have quietly supported and shaped communities before ours, let us remember the communities that may have gathered here before the circle of pews was imagined. Perhaps Myrnong yams were grown here, or grass was slowly burnt and nurtured as food for grazing, feet and arms might have lifted in games or dancing, and those who came before were present in the Dreaming and are still present today.

Take some deep breaths and sense how your body feels to be resting on this ground, part of this community as we prepare to worship together.

Please stand for the Word and the light as we sing together.

Gathering Song

Amelia

SONG: Gather Us In (TiS 474 – verses 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 our name.*

 2. *We are the young - our lives are a myst'ry,
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 place the new light is shining,
Now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own,
Gather us in all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*
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SONG: Gather us in by Marty Haugen, © 1983 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc. from Together in Song, Harper Collins
Religious WORD OF LIFE

Acknowledgement of Country

Amelia

We acknowledge and respect
the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation,
the traditional custodians of this land
since time immemorial.

We are learning that the land
is not ours to own, but to look after;
and that if we listen,
we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit.

**Responding to this call, we commit ourselves
to work for justice, reconciliation,
and care of the earth.**

Welcome and Introduction

Amelia

Good morning, my name is Amelia and I am the Liturgist for today. Along with Ian, Cath, Kirsty, Clare, Ray, the musicians and everyone leading and supporting worship today, I would like to welcome you all as we worship together in person and online.

This week we will celebrate Transfiguration Sunday and we will explore how the light of the faith of those that went before us is revealed to us, and how it influences our own journeys in faith.

Please stay to say hello after worship, or join us for morning tea in the hall. Our community enjoys the opportunity to share with others and to learn more about those we don't know so well yet and we hope that you will feel welcome.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Amelia

TiS 747 The Lord is my light, my light and salvation (Jacques Berthier)

*The Lord is my light,
my light and salvation:
in God I trust, in God I trust.*

SONG: [The Lord is my light](#), from the Taize Community, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*,
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You are welcome to sing the Taize song, The Lord is my Light, as a response during the prayers of adoration and confession. Let us pray.

Radiant God, light of creation,
Thank you for offering us glimpses of your divine presence in the world.
We stand in the light of all that you have made and are remaking.
Forgive us for not knowing what to say or do when faced by situations
that seem overwhelming or insurmountable.
Help us to trust that we are not alone in the decisions we face.
Remind us of the importance of pausing to seek you in prayer and stillness,
knowing that the presence revealed to us on the mountain top is always with us.
Let us be guided by your light.

The Lord is my light...

Jesus, light of the world,
You show us the divine potential of humanity
and embody the faithfulness of God's promise to us and those who came before us.
Forgive us for when we have not loved others as you love us,

Give us faith in your understanding of our human struggles
and courage to walk behind you, showing your love to each other and to those to come.
Let us be guided by your light.

The Lord is my light...

Holy Spirit, light that connects us as your people,
Our hearts are nourished by the hope in you that glimmers through as we sing songs that have
been passed down through the ages.
We are amazed at your power to transform simple moments into experiences beyond measure.
Forgive us for the times we have lost sight of your hope in us,
letting your flame be dimmed,
Encourage us to share your healing spirit with those around us,
that we may light the path for one another.
Let us be guided by your light.

The Lord is my light...

Amen

Word of Grace

Amelia

Believe the Good News that comes from God: In Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Bible Readings – Exodus 24:12-18 and Matthew 17:1-9

Ray and Clare

Ray: From Exodus chapter 24.

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Clare: From the Gospel of Matthew chapter 17.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

Ray: Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

Clare: Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

Ray: Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Clare: 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."

Ray and Clare: For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:
Thanks be to God

With the Children/Intergenerational

Cath and Ian

Children's Song

Ian

TIS666 *We are marching in the light of God*

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos

We are marching in the light of God

We are living in the love of God

We are moving in the power of God

SONG: We are marching in the light of God, South African, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Reflection

Ian

Offering with Song

Ian

And so we come in our service to a time of response. As part of our response to the Word we make an offering for the work of our family of faith to further the lineage of Christ and Moses and Elijah here this morning. We give towards the work of the church and the care of the poor. This week we are going to reintroduce the passing the offering bowls through the congregation. Do you remember how we used to do that, about three years ago. We stopped doing it for infection control and were going to start doing it again 'old school style' through the pews. If you have a financial offering you can place it in the bowls, if you give by direct debit you can place one of the cards in the bowl as an action of offering commitment, or you might like to make a transfer into our bank account. All of this is a symbol of our own faith response, our own giving in faith. So as we make this offering we sing 'Christ be our Light'.

ATO 313 Christ, be our light (Bernadette Farrell)

1. *Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.*

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. *Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.*
3. *Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.*
4. *Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone.*
5. *Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.*

SONG: [Christ be our light](#), by Bernadette Farrell, from [All together okay](#), Openbook Publishers;
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Offering Prayer

Let us pray

Receive and bless the gifts that we give God
and receive our lives offered in your service.

May we radiate with the light of Christ
as we seek to live out of our heritage of faith,
the heritage that comes to us through Him and through so many.
Bless us in our giving. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayers of the People

Kirsty

God of the mountain
Jesus light in the darkness
Spirit of life with us

We pray for places where people are facing the impact of natural disasters:

An earthquake in Turkia and Syria
A cyclone in New Zealand
Fires in Chile, and
Floods in Australia

We pray for help, for healing, for support, now and in the future, as people grieve and try to live again.

May your light shine on these places.

We pray for places where people are living with violence:

In the Democratic Republic of Congo
In Ukraine

In homes where people face violence from those closest to them, and

In situations where people are subjected to online trolling and harassment

We pray for peace, that peace will be valued and prioritized, for peace to be offered, and hate to be silenced.

May your light shine on these places.

We pray for places of faith. May they show:

Kindness and compassion

Leadership

Conversation and listening, and

Understanding and compassion in the face of difference

In churches, in mosques, in temples, in synagogues and in shrines,

May your light shine on these places.

We pray for the people:

That we know well

That we live near

That we meet and pass by

That we know of

That we read about

We pray for these people as they struggle with illness, grief, loneliness, loss, lack of work, lack of a home, differences between family and friends, for lack of direction.

May your light shine on them.

God who is the light of the world, the church and the community

You are the past, the present and the future. You appear to us today and every day.

May we live in your presence, and act in faith, confident in your light. Amen

Notices

Amelia

Sending Song

TIS 276 There's a light upon the mountains (Maurice Lawton Wostenholm)

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- 1. There's a light upon the mountains, and the day is at the spring
when our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory of the King;
weary was our heart with waiting, and the night-watch seemed so long,
but his triumph day is breaking, and we hail it with a song.*
 - 2. There's a hush of expectation, and a quiet in the air,
and the breath of God is moving in the fervent breath of prayer:
for the suffering, dying Jesus is the Christ upon the throne,
and the travail of our spirit is the travail of his own.*
 - 3. He is breaking down the barriers, he is casting up the way,
he is calling for his angels to build up the gates of day:
but his angels here are human, not the shining hosts above;
for the drum-beats of his army are the heart-beats of our love.*
 - 4. Hark, we hear a distant music, and it comes with fuller swell –
the great triumph song of Jesus, of our King, Immanuel:
Zion, go you forth to meet him; and, my soul, be swift to bring
all your finest and your dearest for the triumph of our King!*
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SONG: There's a light upon the mountain, by Henry Barton, Methodist Publishing House, UK, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Blessing and Sending

Ian

Go now to shine with peace, love, hope and joy in your living.

And may God the Source of the light
shine in your hearts,
may Jesus Christ the bearer of the light
illumine your way,
and may the Holy Spirit
give you eyes to see by the light.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thank you's

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to...

Liturgist:
Amelia Ware

Prayers of the People:
Kirsty Bennett

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Musicians: Natalie Sims,
Shawn Whelan

Bible readers:
Ray Cameron
Clare Keogh

Musicians:
James Balsillie
(co-ordinator)
Jane Allardice

Image:
unsplash - artem-sapegin

Children's time:
Ian Ferguson
Cath James
(CYYA Minister)

Michael Cameron
Glenice Cook
Andrew Dickinson
Quilan Goff

Editing / Production:
Jane Allardice
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Ben Hon
Mal Rowe
Jamie Thom

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Postlude Song: Light of the
Nations, from All together
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Closing verse:

Jesus touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." Matthew 17:7