

# Order of Service – 11/2/2024, Transfiguration B

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## GATHERING

*Here, we cross a threshold – we move into a sacred space, and a sacred time, a space and time 'set apart' for the purpose of communal prayer.*

*During the service the congregation is invited to stand and sit for different parts of the service, however you are welcome to stay seated if you wish.*

*A quiet retreat room is available for those who need it.*

*The worship area is wheelchair accessible.*

*There is a children's corner with books and activities.*

## Opening verse:

Mark 2:2b-3 '...and he was transfigured before them,<sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling bright'

## Song as we gather

**Recorded Song Transfiguration** (Sufjan Stevens)

## Greeting and Call to Worship

**Kirsty**

*The leader greets the people in God's name and calls us into a worshipful space and state. The bible is carried in and Christ Candle lit – we usually stand (if we are able and comfortable to do so) while this happens.*

'When he took the three disciples

to the mountainside to pray,

his countenance was modified, his clothing was aflame...' Sufjan Stevens

Let us worship this God who is dazzles and surprises us.

Please stand and sing as we welcome the Word and the Light.

## Song of Praise

*We usually stand during the songs.*

**TiS474 Here in this place new light is streaming / Gather us in** (Marty Haugen).

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*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.*

3. *Here we will take the wine and the water,  
Here we will take the bread of new birth,  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
Give us to eat the bread that is you.  
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

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

Kirsty

*We acknowledge the people of the land on which we worship*

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung describe this season as Biderap, a dry season when there is low rainfall and the weather is hot and dry. The southern cross is high in the south at sunrise, and female common butterflies are flying. In this Biderap season...

We acknowledge and respect  
the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung 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

Kirsty

*People are welcomed, those present and those online. The themes of the service are laid out.*

Welcome to worship this morning at BUC. Welcome to you who are in this space, and to those of you who are worshipping with us on line – now or later.

My name is Kirsty and I will be leading worship today with our preacher Dan Broadstock, our musicians led by Matthew, Lyn, Kirsty, Claire and a whole host of other people who make the sound and live stream happen.

As we prepared for worship today we heard Sufjan Stephens' song The Transfiguration.

That is our theme for today: the transfiguration of Jesus as told in the gospel of Mark. We will reflect on Peter's role and response to this amazing event, and our own. And of course light will also feature. We will also think about the experiences of Elijah and Elisha in 2 Kings.

Our prayers of adoration and confession will include the Taizé song 'The Lord in my Light'. Let us begin our prayers in song. (Please remain seated.)

## Song

*We usually stand during the songs.*

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

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

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SONG: [The Lord is my light](#), from the Taize Community, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*,  
Reproduced with permission: Word of Life

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession

**Kirsty**

*We pray in adoration, praising and adoring God for being God; and in confession, bringing before God the incompleteness and brokenness of the world and our lives. In response we hear God's word of healing grace.*

God of the prophets,  
who journeyed with Elijah and Elisha,  
You journey with us as well,  
taking us from the present to the future.  
You invite us into your mystery.

Transfigured Jesus,  
Son of God, the Beloved.  
You appeared to Peter, James and John,  
and you come to us,  
opening our eyes to see you in a new light,  
inviting us to trust in you.

Spirit of light,  
shining among us.  
You were with the prophets  
as they faced the struggles of their world  
and you are with us today,  
journeying with us as we seek to be your disciples.

Forgive us, when we do not embrace your mystery,  
When we put limits on who you are  
And do not look for those who have gone before us.

Forgive us, when we not see your light,  
When we do not want to go to the mountain,  
When we do not follow you.

Forgive us, when we do not trust in you  
When we become terrified  
And do not listen to you.

Amen.

## Song

*We will remain seated while we sing.*

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

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*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*, Reproduced with permission: Word of Life

## Word of Grace

Kirsty

Siblings in Christ,  
We are invited into a mystery,  
To be surprised,  
To be a part of things we cannot foresee,  
To be Jesus' disciples.

Jesus knows this can be hard.  
But nonetheless invites us to walk with him.  
And so we can say with confidence  
That our sin is forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

Amen

## HEARING AND RESPONDING

*We hear the story of Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate (in the gospels); the story of God's dealings with Israel (in the Old/First Testament); and the story of God's people through history (in Acts and the New Testament letters). As we hear this story, we are reshaped and formed by an alternative perspective on life – the perspective of the gospel, the good news. The story is told through proclamation, which may include reading the Scriptures, reflection on Scripture, symbolic action, art, music, multimedia resources and silence.*

*Hearing the story requires a response. We respond by making an offering (of ourselves, our gifts, our money, and our prayers for others).*

## Hebrew Scriptures – 2 Kings 2:1-12

Kirsty

**2** Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. **2** Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. **3** The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

**4** Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. **5** The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

**6** Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. **7** Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. **8** Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water;

the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup> He responded, “You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup> As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup> Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word  
**Thanks be to God**

## Early Word

Dan

x

## Song

Dan

**This little light of mine** (Traditional)

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*This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*Love like Jesus in my heart I'm gonna let it shine.  
Love like Jesus in my heart I'm gonna let it shine.  
Love like Jesus in my heart I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*Take my light into the world I'm gonna let it shine.  
Take my light into the world I'm gonna let it shine.  
Take my light into the world I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

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SONG: [This little light of mine](#), traditional, PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Gospel Reading – Mark 2:2-9

Claire

<sup>2</sup> 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, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup> 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.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word  
**Thanks be to God**

## Reflection

Dan

## Offering with Song

Kirsty

*We usually remain seated for the singing of the offering song, standing together when the offering is carried forward.*

It is time to formally make an offering for the work of our community, the wider church and the world. We do this through our direct giving, with our cash, with our time, and with our presence. We make an offering with our energy, with our expertise, and with our love.

So let us commit to make an offering now as the offering bowls are shared, while we remain seated and sing of the future.

**GC(II)770 Transform Us as you, transfigured** (Sylvia Dunstan)

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*1. Transform us as you, transfigured, stood apart on Tabor's height.  
Lead us up our sacred mountains; search us with revealing light.  
Lift us from where we have fallen, full of questions, filled with fright.*

*2. Transform us as you transfigured, once spoke with those holy ones.  
We, surrounded by the witness of those saints whose work is done,  
Live in this world as your Body, chosen daughters, chosen sons.*

*3. Transform us as you transfigured, would not stay within a shrine.  
Keep us from our great temptation - time and truth we quickly bind.  
Lead us down those daily pathways, where our love is not confined.*

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SONG: [Transform us](#), by Sylvia Dunstan, © 1993, GIA Publications Inc. from [Gather Comprehensive \(II\)](#),  
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Let us pray:

May these gifts that we offer  
be part of the transformation you bring,  
Shining light in dark places  
and spreading love in the world.  
Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Lyn

*We offer prayers for the world, for Christ's people in the world, and for those in need. After the prayer the Christ Candle is taken to the chapel space where people are invited to light a taper for their own prayers at the end of the service.*

*I am Lyn and I am bringing prayers of the people today. After the prayers I will take the Christ candle to the chapel space at the back of the church so that if you wish you can light a taper for your personal prayers after the service.*

Today we remember Jesus' Transfiguration. When Peter, James and John were terrified as they witnessed Jesus clothing glowing radiantly white. A light unbelievably bright. Are we like them terrified of your light wanting to do something but not sure what?

Let us pray.

Loving Lord we come to you now with our prayers for others and ourselves.

Lord there is so much darkness in the world today with wars, famine, civil unrest, violence including domestic violence, racism and the list gets bigger and bigger that we don't know what to do to make things better. We bring these concerns before you and ask that you will help us to shine your light into our community. We know that you haven't abandoned the victims of this darkness or us as your servants. You are always here even in the darkest of times.



Dear God, as your church we know we should be able to light up the world but often we feel powerless. Guide us and show us how to help. We don't have to go to far flung parts of the world we can help bring your light into people's lives right here in Brunswick. There are people suffering around us in all sorts of ways please guide us to bring your light to them.

Be with the Olive Way leaders as they are your light in that space. The guests who come come with very different experiences, needs and perspectives. They appreciate what is offered so please guide all involved with that wonderful ministry.

We are very aware of the damage that is being done to our environment often in the name of progress. The desecration of plants and animals and livelihoods. Forgive us oh God and guide us to try to protect your wonderful creation in as many ways as possible.

We pray for members of our congregation who are going through difficult times. As a congregation who has pastoral care at its core please help us to see needs and address them to the best of our ability.

We ask that you will be with members of our Pastoral Care teams as we gather on Friday evening to discuss our pastoral care practices. Guide us in our sharing together so we can be better carers of your people.

We also think of the Church Council Retreat next Saturday. We ask that this will be a time of renewal for all involved.

Lord help us not to hide our light under a bush but to hold it up for the world to see we are your disciples in your world.

In your name we pray. Amen.

## BEING SENT

*Having heard the word and shared the meal together, we are sent forth on God's mission of love. We are again on a threshold, encouraged to go into the world to continue the worship of God in our daily living.*

### Notices

**Kirsty**

*We share the life and work of our community with each other as we prepare to be sent out.*

### Sending Song

**Kirsty**

**ATFG555** *Open your eyes / See Yourself* (Robin Mann)

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*Open your eyes,  
see yourself in the one  
who's shining on the hill,  
hear the voice say to you:  
"This is the one that I love."*

*1. See yourself in the waters of the Jordan,  
baptised into all that Christ will do.  
Go to your Jerusalem,  
eat and watch and pray with him,  
take your cross and follow on the way.*

*2. See yourself in the healing of the lepers,  
see yourself in the raising of the dead.  
hear what demons say to him,  
be denied, betrayed with him,  
die and rise up each and every day.*

3. See yourself in the resurrected daughter,  
see yourself in the wand'rer welcomed home.  
He was dead but lives again.  
We can celebrate with him,  
like the angels when lost is found.

4. See yourself in the worn and weary healer —  
talking with the woman at the well!  
One more bound'ry broken down,  
everywhere is holy ground  
now the real Messiah's here to stay!

5. See yourself in the living and the dying  
see yourself in the sorrow and the shame.  
Can we feel it deep inside,  
every hurt and every cry  
from the deaf and blind, the sick, the lame?

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SONG: Open your eyes see yourself in the one who's shining on the hill, Robin Mann © 1994, 2004; from All Together for Good, © 2001 Willow Publishing Pty Ltd, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

## Blessing and Sending

Kirsty/Dan

*The leader gives a blessing to the people for the next stage of the journey.*

Friends it's time to go out as transfigured people, as people of the Transfiguration  
Once we see things through the light of the transfigured Christ everything changes.  
So ,go out now in the name of the God who makes light,  
the Son who shines in the light and the Spirit who turns light into life and love and joy.  
Go in peace. Amen

## Thank you

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

Liturgist:  
Kirsty Bennett

Bible readers:  
Kirsty Brown  
Claire Foley

Early Word & Reflection:  
Daniel Broadstock

Prayers of the People:  
Lyn Anderson

Musicians:  
Mathew Lees  
(co-ordinator)  
Michael Cameron  
Andrew Dickinson  
Quilan Goff  
Nicole Lowe  
Bronte Potter

Images:  
BUC Library

Postlude Song: Christ be our light, by Bernadette Farrell, from All together okay, Openbook Publishers; Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502  
Musicians: Elaine Potter, Glenice Cook, Catherine Simone

Editing / Production:  
Martin Brown  
Ray Cameron  
Saide Cameron  
James Clough  
Christine Hornby

## Closing verse:

Mark 2:4 'And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus...'