

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



A Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Awe and Wonder

Transfiguration
14th February 2021

Welcome and Gathering

Call to worship

People of God, raise your expectations of what it means to encounter God in this place. Be open to God revealing something of his divine nature to us, and changing the way we see the world.

**Almighty God,
we ask you to show us something more of who you are and how awesome your presence is. Overcome our fear of the unknown, and lead us into a new experience of you. May our worship today be as on a mountain-top, a transforming encounter that empowers our discipleship. Amen.**

Hymn

O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today

and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Saviour,
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour
may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.

Michael Perry (1942-1996)

© Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns

Prayer of confession

Lord, whereas it's part of our faith walk to seek and be open to life-changing moments, forgive us when we just plod through life and get despondent with the mundane.

**We are sorry, Lord.
Shine on us, we pray.**

On the other hand, we can at times get fixated on the spiritual mountain-tops and so miss out on what's happening below in the everyday. When things are going well for us, we can get wrapped up in the moment and be forgetful of others.

**We're sorry, Lord.
Shine on us, we pray.**

There are many voices tuned into today's world telling us how to live and what's best. But you, Lord, are our authority in life. Forgive us when we fail to test things against your word.

**We're sorry, Lord.
Shine on us, we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Jesus' divine nature was confirmed on the mountain – he is God's beloved Son. He went on to suffer; he died and rose again for us, conquering sin and death. Now he sits at God's right hand, glorified in heaven – and thanks to him, we are completely forgiven. **Amen.**

The Collect

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. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

2 Kings 2.1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "so be quiet." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho." And he replied,

"As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," he replied, "so be quiet." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours--otherwise, it will not."

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

'A Song of the Light'

Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
mirror of God's eternal face.

Transparent flame of love's free duty,
you bring salvation to our race.

Now as we see the lights of evening,
we raise our voice in hymns of praise.
Worthy are you of endless blessing,
sun of our night, lamp of our days.

*Simon Lole / Phos Hilaron (from 'Celebrating
Common Prayer')*

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 2.2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A prayer of adoration and praise

God of divine power, what a spine-tingling, hair-raising event the disciples experienced! One minute they were looking upon Jesus, the man. Next, they were tuned into your glory shining in and through him as he transformed before their eyes: your confirmation of his deity.
**God of life-changing moments,
we glorify you.**

Your same radiant light, available to us through relationship with Jesus your Son, transforms our hearts.

**God of life-changing moments,
we glorify you.**

Your divine Holy Spirit tunes our faith in unexpected ways through the transforming radiance of your love.

**God of life-changing moments,
we glorify you. Amen.**

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Beginning with:

God of glory,
open our eyes and open our hearts.

Help us to see Jesus.

God of glory,
change us and renew us by your Spirit.

Make us more like Jesus.

Response:

You are the God who comes close to us:
though we are far apart from each other

**Surround us with the light of your
presence.**

Ending with:

God of glory,
open our eyes and open our hearts.

Help us to see Jesus.

God of glory,
change us and renew us by your Spirit.

Make us more like Jesus. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks
and summons the earth from the rising of
the sun to where it sets. From Zion,
perfect in beauty, God shines forth.

Psalms 50:1-2

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Song

Transfiguration

by Brian Wren and Ricky Manalo

With art depicting the Transfiguration as
well as scenes from Mount Tabor and the
actual Church of the Transfiguration.

Offertory Prayer

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all
that God has given us. In the upside down
world of the gospel, we measure our
wealth not by what we have, but by what
we can give away. Lord, take our offering
to heal and bless your church, your
people, your creation. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

... the hymn of your unending praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your
glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

... Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,
your will be done,**

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Preparation

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have
borne for me. Since I cannot now re-
ceive you sacramentally, I ask you to
come spiritually into my heart. O most
merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you
more dearly, and follow you more near-
ly, day by day. Amen.**

Be known to us in breaking bread,
But do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread
Your table in our heart.

James Montgomery

Prayer after Communion

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus
Christ: may we who are partakers at his
table reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power
to change and save. This we ask through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

News and Notices

Hymn

O Lord my God, when I in awesome
wonder,
Consider all the worlds thy hands have
made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe
displayed.

*Then sings my soul,
My Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art,
How great thou art.
Then sings my soul,
My Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art,
How great thou art!*

When through the woods, and forest
glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the
trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain
grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle
breeze.

And when I think, that God, his son not
sparing;
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on a cross, my burden gladly
bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of
acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my
heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great
thou art!"

Stuart K. Hine

Sending out prayer and blessing

Lord Jesus, raise our expectations
of what it means to encounter God
not just in this place but in every place,
in all the places we shall be in the days
ahead. Help us every day to discover
something new about God's ways, about
what God wants of us – and change the
way we see the world, and the way we act.

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
and all those you love and miss,
this day and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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