

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

Love is patient and love is kind, and may love fill all your lives and give you the needed strength in coping with this lockdown. Trust you are doing well and sending you all prayers.

Thanks to Paul Moores from the Leprosy Mission for sharing his reflections for this week on our YouTube channel. We appreciate all our friends supporting the work of Leprosy Mission and thank you all for your support towards their ministry. I personally know the work of Leprosy Mission in India, and it is very commendable for their mission of bringing transformation to several people's lives.

The second Sunday in February is observed in the UK as the Racial Justice Sunday, and which is an opportunity for us all to rededicate ourselves in striving for racial justice, affirming equality and creating a sense of belonging to all people irrespective of their ethnicity, colour and identity.

Good to see several windows in Heaton's decorated with signs of love and spreading love. Appreciate u all for being part of this #MoorLove this month.

Let us kindly uphold in prayer all those who are sick and unwell among us. May God's healing be with them during these uncertain times.

Herewith I am sending you the reflection and the worship order for your kind perusal.

This week we had our Leadership team meeting receiving feedback from our mission engagements.

The season of Lent begins from next week with Ash Wednesday on the 17th February 2021, and please do join us in the service at 7pm on zoom. In the subsequent Wednesday's we have our Lenten Bible

Studies led by the circuit at 7pm and please do join in those studies. You will shortly receive the Lenten packs done by our staff team, and please do join in those activities mentioned. Thanks to our staff team for all their brilliant efforts.

May the love of God be with you all and let us be committed in spreading love to one another.

Have a blessed week.

Thanking you,

With warm regards,

Raj

12th February 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Just like that we are at February half term - I am taking a week off and will be holidaying at home with the little ones. We're dragging the tent out and going to camp in the garden - hopefully it won't snow!

As usual even though our building remains closed Church is still here, just in different forms. Here are some new things we can all do together but apart this week;

- Take part in Tune In to God:Fridays@5:17.
- Watch the weekly reflection posted on Sunday morning on our YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyhynK2FIPDTbOugBiO6D9A>
- On Thursday evening light a candle from 8pm until 9pm

Just as in the time pre-covid the team are here to answer any questions, be a listening ear or signpost to other services. Please do get in touch with us if we can be of any help.

If you have anything you would like included in the weekly notices please let me know. As always if you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

JoAnne

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 Heaton Moor United Church



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LOOKING FORWARD TO LENT

Circuit Ash Wednesday Zoom Service – 17th February at 7pm

**Circuit Lenten Study Course “Life Changing Stories: Scripture From The Margins”
Every Wednesday in Lent starting on the 24th February at 7pm**

The Bible shows us again and again that God is on the side of the poor and the oppressed. People on the margins. But too often, when we read scripture in our churches, we focus on other aspects of the story, or we are so familiar with the text that we don't notice the challenging things it has to say to us. *Scripture from the Margins* is a series of Bible studies that encourage people to focus on the voices and perspectives in scripture that we don't usually hear in our churches.

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/bible/lifechangingstories/>

The Ash Wednesday and Lenten Course will use the same zoom links as the Sunday Worship.

Forty Days of Faith

During Lent, we want to share what our faith means to us with one another through social media. You can find more information on how to get involved by [clicking here](#). Look out for #FortyDaysOfFaith on our social media feeds.

ALL WE CAN are also running an online Lent Course ‘Change Begins in Lent’ running at 8pm every Wednesday in Lent. To register please go to <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/event/lentgroup/>



School Pantry

This week we delivered food parcels for 10 families from All Saints School at the request of the Headteacher. It was great to have the store of food to be able to respond quickly to the request. Please do consider dropping off donations as we are now running short on supplies.

To the left is a list of items that we are currently short of. If you can help in any way that would be great.

If you would like further information please contact JoAnne on community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk or 07340 269 354

School Pantry donations can be dropped off at Church during the Private Reflection time on a Sunday

SPACE AT THE TABLE

Our Space At The Table project is now ½ way through the second phase. I continue to deliver some of the meals each Wednesday and it has been great to welcome new people onto the project. It's lovely being able to catch up with them on the doorstep.

The Alzheimer's Society has a petition on their website which they are asking people to sign. They are calling on the Government to:

- Set out a clear timetable and process for re-introducing meaningful visits to care homes
- Publish the percentage of care home residents and staff who have received the first and second doses and how many have refused the vaccine
- Urgently review the use of anti-psychotic medication for people with dementia.

If you would like to sign here is the link [Alzheimers Society campaigns - \(e-activist.com\)](https://www.alzheimersociety.org.uk/campaigns/e-activist)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Racial Justice Sunday – 14th February

Leprosy Mission Sunday – 14th February

See our YouTube channel on Sunday as this week's reflection is by Paul from The Leprosy Mission

Make a Square – 16th February at 3pm

See your Easter pack for more details. Zoom ID 812 9419 0431 (passcode 123802)

Ash Wednesday Circuit Zoom Service – 17th February at 7pm

See page 1 for more information

Church Action on Poverty Sunday – 21st February National Service at 6pm

REGIONAL / NATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

Survey



We would love to learn more about you and what you are passionate about. Please could you take 10 minutes to complete this anonymous 'getting to know you' survey? You can find the questions [here](#).

[Tell us about you \(dotmailer-surveys.com\)](https://www.dotmailer-surveys.com)

Pancakes



Fancy a challenge for Shrove Tuesday? Why not have go at some pancake art and make one in the shape of the Methodist orb? We'd love to see your efforts, share them on social media using #MethodistPancakes.

News from Global and Intercultural Ministries

1. The URC Legacies of Slavery task group has a new initiative, 'Black History Monthly' - *because Black History is too important to leave until October!*

'Black History Monthly' will take place on the 3rd Monday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm via Zoom. Starting **Monday 15th February**, each session will have a different emphasis - sometimes focusing on and discussing an article or book, unpacking a film we have watched, taking a dive into poetry from Black writers, and maybe even sharing an eye-opening quiz - discovering some of the many achievements we may not have realised are attributable to Black people. We are confident there will be something of value, interest, and enjoyment for everyone.

Monday 15th February 7.30pm

February is Black History Month in the USA, so we'll start with Ava DuVernay's Netflix Documentary about the woeful and unremitting effects over 150 years of the exception clause in the Anti-slavery 13th amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

*Currently, it's available for free viewing on **YouTube**. We'll show the trailer when we meet but try to find the time to watch the full feature **before** you join us.*

Find it by searching on You Tube for "13th documentary"

<https://zoom.us/j/99060809545?pwd=YIFOR2k2TUozbmJiWVZPSkxMQjNXUT09>


Meeting ID: **990 6080 9545**

Passcode: **264326**

Thursday Prayer

Christ our light

We uphold people grieving their loss,
grant them your strength,
We uphold the frontline workers,
grant for your courage,
We uphold people struggling with the lockdown,
grant them your peace,
We uphold all the vaccine researchers and producers,
grant them your wisdom,
We uphold people denying the vaccine,
lead them to your truth,
We pray that the vaccine will be accessible
and available to all people in all countries,
Embrace us with your grace and enable us to be your reflection,
Empower us with your love and enlighten us with your spirit. Amen



@rajpatta
09.02.2021

MOOR LOVE Earlier this week I walked around Heaton Moor and hung up symbols of love for people to take away as part of our Moor Love initiative. I was pleasantly surprised the next day that they had nearly all been taken. On Heaton Moor Park and Thornfield Park I gave out bubbles and love heart sweets to children. We also did some chalk drawings and had a chat about what love is. It was great to be in the community meeting people once again.



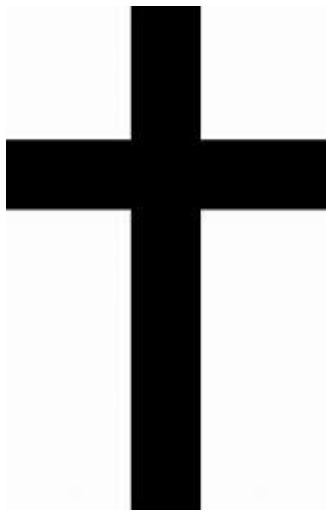
In the week leading up to Valentine's Day End Child Poverty are asking people to contact their MP to enlist their help to put child poverty at the heart of our post-covid recovery. In Stockport alone there are 5875 children living in poverty. [This Valentine's, ask your MP to help end child poverty | Improving the lives of children and families](#)



Dorothy Smith has changed her telephone number to 0161 432 6232



Prayers from Linda



Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

The First Week of Lent

Loving God, Sometimes my heart turns in every direction except towards you. Please help me to turn my heart toward you, to gaze upon you in trust and to seek your kingdom with all of my heart. Soften my hardened heart so that I might love others as a way to glorify and worship you. Grant me this with the ever-present guidance of your spirit. Amen.



It is with sad hearts that we write that Margaret Jorgensson and Joan Evans have passed away. Please hold their families and friends in your Prayers

If anyone would like to share a Prayer with the church family, please call Linda on 07564839380 or E-mail lindawfleming625@gmail.com.



No names required because God Knows.

Leprosy Mission Sunday 14th February 2021



This Sunday is Leprosy Mission Sunday. This charity is one of our Church charities this year. Normally we would have envelopes on our seats and a presentation about their work.

We can still learn about their work. A service about

their work is on our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyhynK2FIPDTbOuqBiO6D9A>

Even though we haven't got envelopes on seats, you can still donate to help their work continue. Either by sending donations in to the church either through BACS or cheque. Or you can go to the website and go on the Charity news tab, you can also find a link to donate directly to Leprosy Mission.



Here is some information about this years campaign. All donations given before 24th April will be doubled by the Government.

Here is an unconditional love that keeps on giving

Leprosy is a disease often considered confined to Biblical times. But did you know there are almost a quarter of a million new leprosy cases diagnosed each year? Even though there is a cure for leprosy, for every person treated there are a hidden 20 needing the cure.


Leprosy hides in remote villages like Namatua, where Zaina lives in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique's most northern province. There are no doctors in Namatua, and medical care is scarce. Leprosy is shrouded by fear and misunderstanding, which means people with the disease face extreme discrimination.

For too long, leprosy has disrupted and disabled lives. It has separated loved ones and torn families apart. But through the power of unconditional love, life in Mozambique, is changing.




The Leprosy Mission is raising up people like Zaina to become Leprosy Changemakers, to lead the fight against leprosy. They are part of a sea change, paving the way for a Mozambique free of leprosy and discrimination.

Zaina was shown God's unconditional love through the kindness of a stranger. Forever grateful, Zaina's love for others walking the same path as her knows no bounds. She goes the extra mile to find those who are hidden away and fearful so that they too have the freedom of a new life.




Zaina was a young mum when she first noticed discoloured patches on her skin. She didn't know what they were, but when they became visible to other people in her home village of Namatua, they recognised the signs of leprosy. Because of age-old myths surrounding disease, some of the villagers banished her to the forest, chanting "go to the bush" over and over.




Together with her young son, Zaina was forced to live in the forest. If that wasn't hard enough, a group of villagers came to take her little boy away. Zaina was heartbroken. Hungry and without medicine, her body became increasingly weak.

By the grace of God a stranger found Zaina in the forest. He built her a hut to shelter from the rain and took her to a health post where her leprosy was cured. Leprosy Changemakers, trained by The Leprosy Mission, were able to go to Namatua and teach the villagers about leprosy and how it is easily cured.





Zaina was able to take back her future into her own hands and is now a thriving member of her community. Determined others shouldn't have to suffer a similar fate, Zaina has trained as a Leprosy Changemaker. She is able to recognise the early signs of leprosy and has made it her mission to encourage others affected by the disease.



"I say to someone with leprosy that they should take care of themselves," she said.

"They should take the medication because this disease has a cure. They should bathe, wash their clothes, brush their teeth and carry on living. They must realise they will get better."

The Unconditional Appeal sees churches in the UK partner with communities in Mozambique to build community hubs.





A community hub, or a Hub of Hope, gives a beating heart to a village like Namatua, a place from which to lead the fight against leprosy. A place where Leprosy Changemakers, like Zaina, can learn to recognise early symptoms of the disease. Crucially, a Hub of Hope is a place where people affected by leprosy are welcomed unconditionally.

Will you become a Leprosy Changemaker today by sharing Jesus's unconditional love for people with leprosy?

Here is a wonderful opportunity, thanks to UK Aid Match, for your unconditional love to go twice as far. Gifts to The Unconditional Appeal made from 24 January to 24 April 2021 will be DOUBLED by the UK government.



Your gift of £24 will bring the cure to someone with leprosy. So by giving £24 your gift will be doubled to £48 so two people can be found, diagnosed and cured.

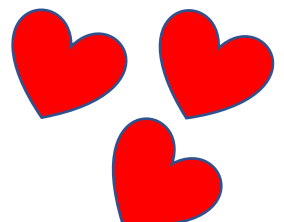
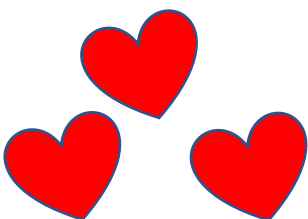
It costs £70 to train a Leprosy Changemaker to recognise the early signs of the disease. They will act as a supportive friend to travel with to a healthpost or make contact with a Community Health Worker who can give the cure. So by giving £35 today, your donation becomes £70, training a Leprosy Changemaker whose love goes on to transform the lives of others.

This is an unconditional love that keeps giving.



'We love because He first loved us.'

1 John 4:19 (NIV)



Capture the wonder of Transfiguration in love, graciousness and humility

Reflecting on Mark 9:2-9

It was in 2009, I received an invited to present a presentation at a conference at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Those were the days I was reading Paulo Coelho's novels, where he explains the beauty of Rio and specially its laid-back beach culture, of course the Copacabana beach, the carnivals, samba, and not to forget the favelas, which were the slums in the outskirts of the city. As I received that conference invitation, I was excited to travel to that part of the world to experience all that I have been reading about. One another exciting thing I was really looking forward to see was the famous Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer) statue. After landing at Rio, the conference centre was a Catholic guest house, which was on top of a mountain, from where we had a beautiful view of Cristo Redentor statue, with his hands wide open facing us. It was a great sight to view that statue from our conference centre. Every day, I was hoping to get closer to the statue to see its magnificence. It was a bright sunny day, and on the last day of my conference, I made arrangements to go and view this Christ the Redeemer statue. The statue was located at the peak of the 2,300 feet Corcovado mountain in the Tijuca Forest National Park overlooking the city of Rio. I was all excited to see this magnificent statue of 98 feet high placed on a pedestal of 26 feet. To reach the mountain top, I took a cog train and it was a splendid 20 minutes ride through the forest. My excitement grew stronger and stronger as I got on the train to see this world-famous Christ the Redeemer statue. In that 20 minutes the weather suddenly changed, it got cold, with clouds gathering thick and dark. As I reached the mountain top to see Christ the Redeemer statue, these thick and dark clouds covered the entire mountain, and it was a total disappointment for all the visitors that day that none of us could see the statue clearly, for the visibility was very poor. I stayed till the evening near that statue on that mountain top, hoping against hope that the clouds would disappear and I can have a glance of the statue. It was one of the great disappointing moments for me, for I had to return from that mountain top of Corcovado mountain without viewing the statue clearly due to the thick clouds. I travelled back home from Rio, only with the memories of viewing Christ the Redeemer from a distance, from the mountain top of my conference centre and with a disappointment of not able to view it clearly from its foot.

The text for this Sunday from Mark 9:2-9, is a passage where Jesus takes Peter, John and James to a mountain top and transfigures before them. He also meets and talks to Moses and Elijah there. On seeing these things happening 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." Peter did not know what to say, for they were terrified (5-6v). Later a voice came out from the heavens saying about Jesus "this is my son, the beloved; listen to him" (7v). The three disciples saw only Jesus at the end, and they had to come down the mountain to get back to their ministry and mission engagements. All that what has happened with Jesus' transfiguration and the voice appearing from heaven, I would want to call it an experience of wonder. Peter was disappointed that on the one hand he could not build the dwellings for the Moses, Elijah and Jesus on that mountain top, and on the cloud had overshadowed them, and at the end had to return without memorialising that rare encounter of Jesus with the two significant faith pioneers from three historical time periods meeting at that transfiguration mountain. Peter, James and John were the only witnesses to this Jesus' transfiguration on that mountain, and I want to reflect on their reactions, in particularly Peter's reactions to this experience, which led to his disappointments. What they see is not what they get. In those moments of wonder, Peter responds and blurts.

1. Peter wanted to capture the wonder of transfiguration religiously:

Mark records that, six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John to this mountain top experience (2v). In a way this is to say that it was on the seventh day that this transfiguration experience happened, perhaps it could be the day of Sabbath. On that day of Sabbath, it was their tradition to spend that day with several rituals and religious observances. Imagining it was a day of Sabbath, and the transfiguration of Jesus happened on that mountain, he saw Elijah coming with Moses speaking to Jesus, and Peter wanted to capture that experience religiously by building three tabernacles/tents/ booths/dwellings for them to make it a truly Sabbath experience. Peter tried to memorialise the wonder of transfiguration religiously, thinking that would impress Jesus, Moses and Elijah and the rest of his companions.

2. Peter wanted to capture the wonder of transfiguration rigorously:

Mark records in verse 7, that, "Peter did not know what to say, for they were terrified." As he was caught in that wonder of transfiguration and the aftermaths of it, Peter and his companions were terrified not knowing what to say. In not knowing what to say, Peter said he wanted to build three dwellings for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. He wanted to capture those moments scrupulously with constructions, with buildings, with structures, with memorials, with something that will have a permanent memory of that event. Peter wanted to put in hard work in setting up those three dwellings, in a way repeating what their ancestors did in erecting memorials whenever they have encountered such wonder experiences. Peter tried to memorialise the wonder of transfiguration rigorously, thinking that would impress Jesus, Elijah, Moses and the rest of his companions.

3. Peter wanted to capture the wonder of transfiguration rigidly:

On experiencing that wonder of transfiguration, Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here..." (5v). Peter wanted to remain there, in that mountain top experience rigidly, for he knew it was a rare experience, it was once in a life-time experience, and it was an experience beyond any human comprehension. He did not want to give away that experience, to pass on that experience rather wanted to build dwellings there and make it a pilgrim site. That mountain top experience was far from all the struggles of life, from all the evils of the empire and was far from all the problems and conflicts, so Peter wanted firmly and rigidly to stay on that mountain top experience, enjoying the encounters of Jesus, Elijah and Moses.

At the end, the proposal of Peter in setting up three dwellings for Jesus, Elijah and Moses did not come true, and he was left disappointed. Jesus did not approve of such constructions of structures and memorials, for if that was the case, Jesus should have encouraged Peter and his companions in doing it before that wonder passed away. I think Jesus did not want the wonder of his life to be captured and built as memorial sites or as pilgrim sites or as tents or as temples on his name, rather wanted his life and his experiences to be lived out by his disciples and followers, by being with people in their struggles offering hope and healing. I also see the disapproval to Peter's proposal of building three dwellings from the voice that came out from the heavens to them. The cloud overshadowed them and the voice said, "This is my son, the beloved; listen to him" (7v). The voice from heavens was reminding Peter and his companions to recognise that Jesus is the beloved Son of God, and the voice came with a call to asking the disciples to listen to him. The message of transfiguration is to celebrate the wonder of Jesus by recognising that Jesus is the Son of God, to listen to Jesus throughout, and reflect Jesus in all walks of life. For Peter, he has to get down that transfiguration mountain top experience in disappointment as his proposal was disapproved.

In drawing a relevance of this text for our context today, where on the one hand we observe this Second Sunday in February as Racial Justice Sunday in the UK and on the other hand people celebrating love on this 14th of February, I want to infer three signposts for our discipleship today.

Firstly, **we are called to listen to the wonder of the gospel in love.** Most often in our Christian life and in the life of our church, we apply rules and rituals based on religiosity and give love a backbench. The learning from this text is to capture and share the wonder of the good news of Christ in love, for love is at the heart of Christ's voice. Even though we do not know what to speak and how to speak, all it takes in Christian discipleship is love alone, love without any boundaries. To recognise Jesus as the Son of God, and to listen to Christ's voice today is all about love for the other, particularly to people who do not look like us. When love thrives, racial justice is ensured, driving away supremacy, power and domination.

Secondly, **we are called to listen to the wonder of the gospel in graciousness.** It is not in building memorials, pilgrim sites, buildings, temples and shrines for Jesus, but in being gracious to one another, in receiving and accepting one another and in being with one another. By creating a sense of belongingness to people who are different to us and by being open in listening to each other's perspectives we celebrate the love of Christ today. There are varied expressions of God's wonder today, let us be gracious to one another in listening and accepting one another. Lack of graciousness for the other is one of the reasons for racial injustices today, and practicing justice and equality in graciousness is the need of the day towards racial justice.

Thirdly, **we are called to listen to the wonder of the gospel in humility.** It is easy to stay on the mountain top experiences, but Jesus wants us to get down the mountain to be with people in their needs. This calls for gracious humility today. People take pride in their ethnicity and colour, and in that pride, they develop arrogance and try to humiliate the others from other backgrounds and ethnicities. Jesus did not deem it a privilege speaking to Elijah and Moses and kept on staying with them, rather brought the disciples down from the mountain to preach and practice God's love and justice to all people.

If we don't listen to the wonder of the gospel in love, in graciousness and in humility, we might be disappointed, for Christian life is all about these values. We as followers of Jesus Christ are called to champion racial justice in our localities by creating preferential options of affirmative actions for people of different ethnicities and colour, and we as churches should be in the forefront towards such a mission.

May God grant God's strength so that we are not disappointed because of our religiosity, rigour and rigidity, rather listen to Christ's voice and demonstrate love in action to all people and to all of the creation. After I returned from Rio, I realised that Christian discipleship is in translating the vision of Christ the Redeemer in the contexts where I serve and keep demonstrating the love of Christ and not worry about missing to view the statue in clear visibility.

Raj Bharat Patta,
12th February 2021

Sunday 14th February

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

“Our God makes his entrance,

He’s not shy in his coming.

Starbursts of fireworks precede him.”

Ps 50:3 The Message

Lord God in the quietness of this hour burst in with your light and life. Transform this ordinary morning into a new experience with you. Enable a fresh experience of your glory. Empower the worship of this day. In Jesus name. Amen

Hymn: 53 How shall I sing that Majesty

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOI-YWWpEXk>

How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing because thou art their sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun
there alleluia be.

How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!

Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

John Mason (c. 1645-1694)

Let us pray together

Lord our God, majestic and awesome, humble and meek, powerful and vulnerable, we offer our worship to you.

You meet us in the predictable, day to day experiences of life.

You inspire us with awe and wonder in the special moments of our lives with you.

You turn the ordinary into the extraordinary and call us to witness to your actions.

Thank you Lord for the creative love you have for us, the saving grace you lavish on us and the insight you give us. Help us to continue to see your glory around us, to receive your grace given to us and to use the power you offer us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Today’s Reading from the Old Testament

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Today’s Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2 – 9

Time to Reflect

Before Elisha picks up the mantle of Elijah, which declares Elisha to be Elijah’s successor, he sees Elijah whisked off to heaven in a whirlwind with chariots of fire. A moment of powerful revelation before the hard work begins.

Before the disciples went with Jesus on the final journey to Jerusalem three of them are given a glimpse of Christ's heavenly glory on a mountain top. A moment of insight into the real identity of the man Jesus before they had to face the suffering and sacrifice that was to be endured by the Son of Man.

Take a moment to reflect on the difficult periods of your life. What previous experiences have helped you during those times? How have you seen God at work that has enabled you to endure?

There were 9 disciples who were left at the bottom of the mountain and the 3 who were there were instructed not to tell. I wonder (and invite you to wonder too) what the reaction of the 9 was?

This episode comes 6 days after Peter has acclaimed Jesus as the Messiah which was immediately followed by Jesus' first prediction of his death. That was something Peter objected to and on the mountain he wishes to prolong the experience by building but God answers with a cloud, a declaration of the identity of Jesus, "This is my Son, the Beloved" and the instruction, "Listen to him."

We know the full Biblical story of what was to come but for the disciples out of this glorious revelation there was the simple command "Listen"

Listen when Jesus tells you of the way of the cross, listen when he tells you it is not an easy way.

Listen when he speaks of death and resurrection.

Listen when he speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

And to us God still says, "Listen". Listen when God speaks to you in your life today.

Take a time to sit quietly and listen to God's voice to you today.

A time of prayer

Lord forgive us when we do not take time to see your glory or listen for your voices. In your mercy and forgiveness give us a knowledge of

your forgiveness, a glimpse of your glory and a will to listen attentively to your words to us.

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

As God's forgiven, beloved children we pray for others.

First on this St Valentine's Day we pray for couples committing themselves to a new relationship of love and trust.

And now we pray

For those who have lost hope.....

For those who have recently come to or returned to faith.....

For those in distress....

For those ill in body, mind or spirit...

For those who mourn

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: StF 260 Swiftly pass the clouds of glory

<https://youtu.be/E3F8KnUJ0iY>

Swiftly pass the clouds of glory,
heaven's voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish;
Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent,
turning from the summit's rise
downward toward the shadowed valley
where their Lord has fixed his eyes.

Glimpsed and gone the revelation,
they shall gain and keep its truth,
not by building on the mountain
any shrine or sacred booth,
but by following the Saviour
through the valley to the cross
and by testing faith's resilience
through betrayal, pain, and loss.

Lord, transfigure our perception
with the purest light that shines
and recast our life's intentions
to the shape of your designs,
till we seek no other glory
than what lies past Calvary's hill

and our living and our dying
and our rising by your will.

Thomas H. Troeger (b. 1945)

A prayer of blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and
be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

Original Materials by Rev Anne Smith

All

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We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers from around the Connexion who have contributed to Worship at Home. This resource is administrated by Ministries: Vocations and Worship in the Connexional Team. We aim to continue to provide these resources until the end of August 2021.

2 Kings 2: 1-12

2Now 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; be 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, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9 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.' **10**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.' **11**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. **12**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.

Mark 9:2 – 9 2 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, 3and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5Then 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.' 6He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' 8Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

9 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.