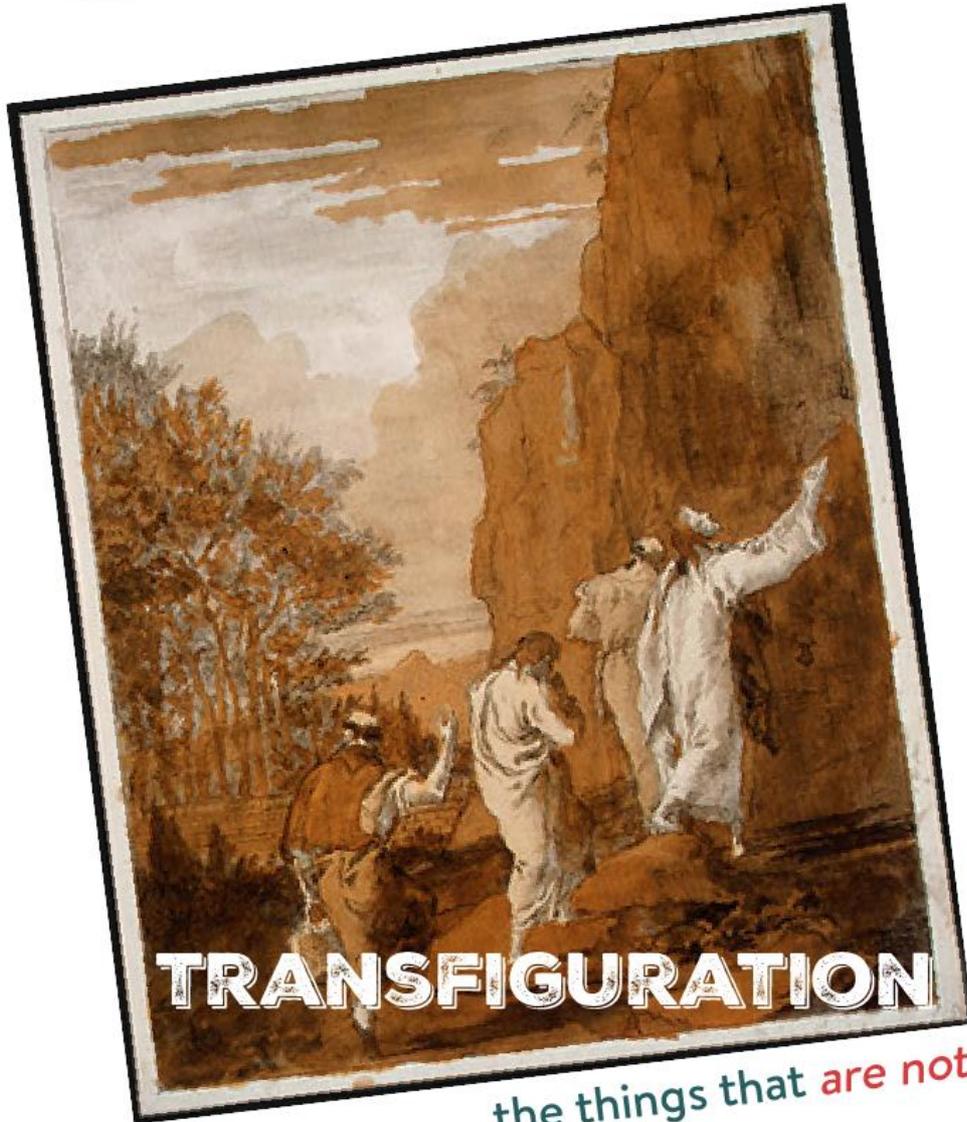




Leigh Memorial
Uniting



14 FEBRUARY, 2021

the things that **are not**
transform
the things that are

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Or Dial in by phone +61 2 8015 6011 Australia

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together here in Leigh Memorial
Uniting Church and everyone connecting to us through zoom.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle
as a symbol of God's faithful and loving support
of people in their times of suffering

The Christ candle is lit

THEME the things that *are not*
 trans-form the things that are

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of unseen and mysterious places
where we catch a glimpse
of your unseen presence,
 above the low levels of life,
 above the evil and emptiness
which drag us down
beyond the limits
of our senses and imagination,
 you lift us up.

In the splendour of a sunset,
in the silence of the stars,
in the grandeur of the mountains,
in the vastness of the sea,
 you lift us up.

In the majesty of music,
in the mystery of art,
in the freshness of the morning,
in the fragrance of a single flower,
you lift us up.

Awe-inspiring God,
when we are lost in wonder,
do not let us be content to bear your beauty and be
still.

Be with us, lift the veil of our reticence,
***give us courage to express your movement in us
with simple delight.
Help us share our glimpses
of your mystery among us
and be drawn into your light. Amen.***

HYMN *Praise with Joy the World's creator* (179, TiS)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-561FAk0ZtQ>

Praise with joy the world's creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
Force of goodness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
Power to rescue and release.

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence -
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us
Liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -
Foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
One God in Community,
Calling us to leave behind
Faith's ghettos and obscurity.
Thus the world shall yet believe
When shown Christ's vibrant unity.
*(Tune: Praise my soul the king of heaven.
J Goss c. 1986 Wild Goose Publications)*

PRAYER OF SELF-EXAMINATION

O Jesus Christ,
we know that there are times
when we refuse to climb the mountains of reflection
to wait in respectful silence beside you.
We assume that it is more important
to keep rushing on according to our own agendas.
***We do not always seek to
renew our sense of your holiness,
and all that it means
in the enriching the life of the world.***
Silent reflection

Stand before us, Jesus the Christ.
***Show us the deeper and greater vision,
love and justice for all.***

O God, there are also moments when we block out
new images of ourselves and others,
preferring to stay with our preconceived views
and long-held assumptions.
Silent reflection

Stand before us, Jesus the Christ.
Show us the deeper and greater vision,
love and justice for all.
Stay with us now, we pray.
Amen.

(Adapted: Dorothy McRae-McMahon)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus Christ transforms our understanding
of life and God.

In the Christ we are given the Holy life of a Creator
whose love never fails and whose grace is infinite.

We are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen!

HYMN

Christ upon the mountain peak

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTbIkPIXtHw>

1. Christ upon the mountain peak

Stands alone in glory blazing;

Let us, if we dare to speak,

With the saints and angels praise Him:

Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

2. Trembling at His feet we saw

Moses and Elijah speaking;

All the prophets and the law

Shout thro' them their joyful greeting:

Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

3. Swift the cloud of glory came,

God proclaiming in the thunder

Jesus as His Son by name;

Nations cry aloud in wonder!

Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

4. This is God's beloved Son:

Law and prophets fade before Him;

First and last, the only One,

Let creation now adore Him.

Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Brain Wren

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 9: 2-9 (Inclusive Text)

Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence Jesus was transfigured; Jesus' clothes became dazzling white, whiter than any bleacher could make them.

Elijah appeared with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter spoke to Jesus,

“Rabbi, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tent dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

Peter did not know what to say, they were so frightened.

And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud,

“This is my Beloved, my Own. Listen to this One!”

Then suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain, Jesus warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Promised One had risen from the dead.

Response

*O God our nurturer,
may your word live in us.
And colour our living.
Amen!*

SONG *Meet me in the middle of the air*
Paul Kelly & The Storm Water Boys
Foggy Highway
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g34-nB3oym4>

i am your true shepherd
i will leave you there
beside still waters
come and meet me in the middle of the air
i will meet you in the middle of the air

i will lay you down
in pastures green and fair
every soul shall be restored
i will meet them in the middle of the air
come and meet me in the middle of the air

through the lonesome valleys
my rod and staff you'll bear
fear not deaths dark shadows
come and meet me in the middle of the air
i will meet you in the middle of the air

with oil i shall annoint you
the table i shall prepare
your cup will runneth over
come and meet me in the middle of the air
i will meet you in the middle of the air

in my house you'll dwell forever
ye shall not want for care
surely goodness and mercy will follow you
come and meet me in the middle of the air
i will meet you in the middle of the air

come and meet me in the middle of the air
i will meet you in the middle of the air
come and meet me in the middle of the air
i will meet you in the middle of the air
i will meet you in the middle of the air

SERMON

*The things that are not
transform the things that are*

HYMN *Here in this place new life is streaming* (Tis, 474)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arOBXa82F9M>

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.

We are the young our lives are a mystery,
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.

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.

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 bones.

OFFERING An offering of our lives and the gifts of creation.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Unpredictable, irrepressible,
dancing, laughing Spirit,
when we're tempted to be cautious and hesitate,
***Draw us forward
into the surprising and joyful future
you have waiting for us.***

Unpredictable, elusive Spirit,
when we're tempted to opt for certainty,
***Free our spirits to adventure and risk,
as your people have always done.***

Unpredictable, people-loving,
freedom-loving Spirit,
when we're tempted to be shackled to comfort
and conformity,
***Enable us to leave such things behind,
call us through your people
into the surprise of each new day.***

Clear our vision,
so we may see things,
to which we've paid no attention in the past.
***Sharpen our listening,
so we may hear pleadings and cries
we've never heard before.***

Strengthen our hands,
so we may do things we've previously not dared
try.

*Put a new spring into our step,
so we may follow your leading into new
situations.*

*Draw us dancing and laughing into tomorrow.
(John Connan)*

We pray for the world and the church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

Be thou my vision (TiS 547)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihAJA4ibEs>

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.
Born of thy love, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

3 Be thou my buckler, my sword for the fight.
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r.
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 True Light of heaven, when vict'ry is won
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

BLESSING *Suffering brings compassion*

May you be blessed in the holy names
of those who carry our pain
up the mountain of transfiguration.

May you know tender shelter
and healing blessing
when you are called
to stand in the place of pain.

May the places of darkness within you
be surprised by light.

May you be granted the wisdom
to avoid false resistance
and when suffering
knocks on the door of your life,
may you be able to glimpse its hidden gift.

May you be able to see
the fruits of suffering.

May memory bless and shelter you
with the hard-earned light of past travail,
may this give you confidence and trust.

May a window of light
always surprise you.

May the grace of transfiguration
heal your wounds.

May you know that even though
the storm might rage
not a hair of your head will be harmed.

John O'Donohue, *Eternal echoes*, 260 f