



uniting church

in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

Leigh Memorial
Westmead
Uniting Church



Parramatta Mission



TRANSFIGURATION COMES OUT OF NOWHERE,
INTERRUPTS DAILY OBSESSIONS, SHAKES US OUT
OF SLEEPWALKING THROUGH LIFE

27 February 2022

Leigh Memorial 9.30am

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Westmead Uniting 9:30am

Zoom: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/3958336709>

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together on this Sunday,
in this place
and to those of you at home on zoom!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
whose epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of love, justice and mercy.

The candle is lit

THEME *Transfiguration comes out of nowhere,
interrupts daily obsessions,
shakes us out of sleepwalking through life
(sacraconvesazione.org)*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burramattagal 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.

OPENING SENTENCES

God of power,
God of people,
You are the life
of all that lives,
energy
that fills the earth,
vitality
that brings to birth,
the impetus

toward making whole
whatever is bruised
or broken.

In You we grow
to know the truth
that sets all creation free.
You are the song
the whole earth sings,
the promise
liberation brings,
now and forever!

(Miriam Therese Winter)

PRAYER

Let's go up to the mountain
let's go up to the place where the land meets the sky
where the earth touches the heavens,
to the place of meeting,
to the place of mists,
to the place of voices and conversations,
to the place of listening.

(Source: Bill Loader)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar0BXa82F9M>

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.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Luke 9: 28-43

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his

companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" -- not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Beloved Child, my Chosen; listen to this One!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

RESPONSE

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

REFLECTION

HYMN "Brighter Than a Thousand Suns" (TiS 251, Tune: Abingdon)

Much brighter than a thousand suns,
the source of life, eternal grace;
light of the cosmos and this world

now shining from a saviour's face.
Upon the mountain's towering height
they saw transfiguration's light.

This man, this Jesus, they had known,
who called them once by Galilee,
now stood upon the mountaintop,
he seemed exalted, shining, free.
Disciples caught in stark surprise
had shielded dazzled, blinded eyes.

Free of the bonds of human life
and distanced by some greater power,
a strange yet mystic harmony
joined earth and heaven in this hour.
It seemed that God was very near,
inspiring awe, dispelling fear.

The height of love, the depth of grace,
the dazzling birth of something new,
a supernova magnified,
a stunning, startling, shining view,
for God affirmed Christ's human worth
illuminating all the earth.

(Andrew Pratt. © Copyright 2012 Stainer & Bell Ltd)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of compassion and relationship, ,
you work with us to bring forth life in the midst of death,
healing in the midst hate and anger,
and hope in the darkest places of poverty and despair.
You desire our wholeness, and invite our company
to bring healing and life with others.
May the gifts we offer to you this morning
bring life and healing to us all.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

Christ upon the mountain peak (TiS 243)

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

PRAYER FOR TRANSFIGURATION

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*

SONG *May the feet of God walk with you (TiS, 779)*

May the feet of God
walk with you,
and God's hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you,
and God's ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you,
and God's breath give you life.
May the Child of God grow in you,
and God's love bring you home. *(Sung Twice)*

BLESSING

Deepest mystery of grace,
beneath, above, around and within;
on the mountain you showed your glory.
As your Spirit invites us
into new, even daring ways of following Jesus,

may our lives be parables of your love, justice and freedom
in every gesture and deed!

May God as love dwell within us.

May God as light bring new insights and encouragement.

May God as grace take us on a journey of compassion.

May God as hope give us courage to let our light shine.

(Bill Loader)