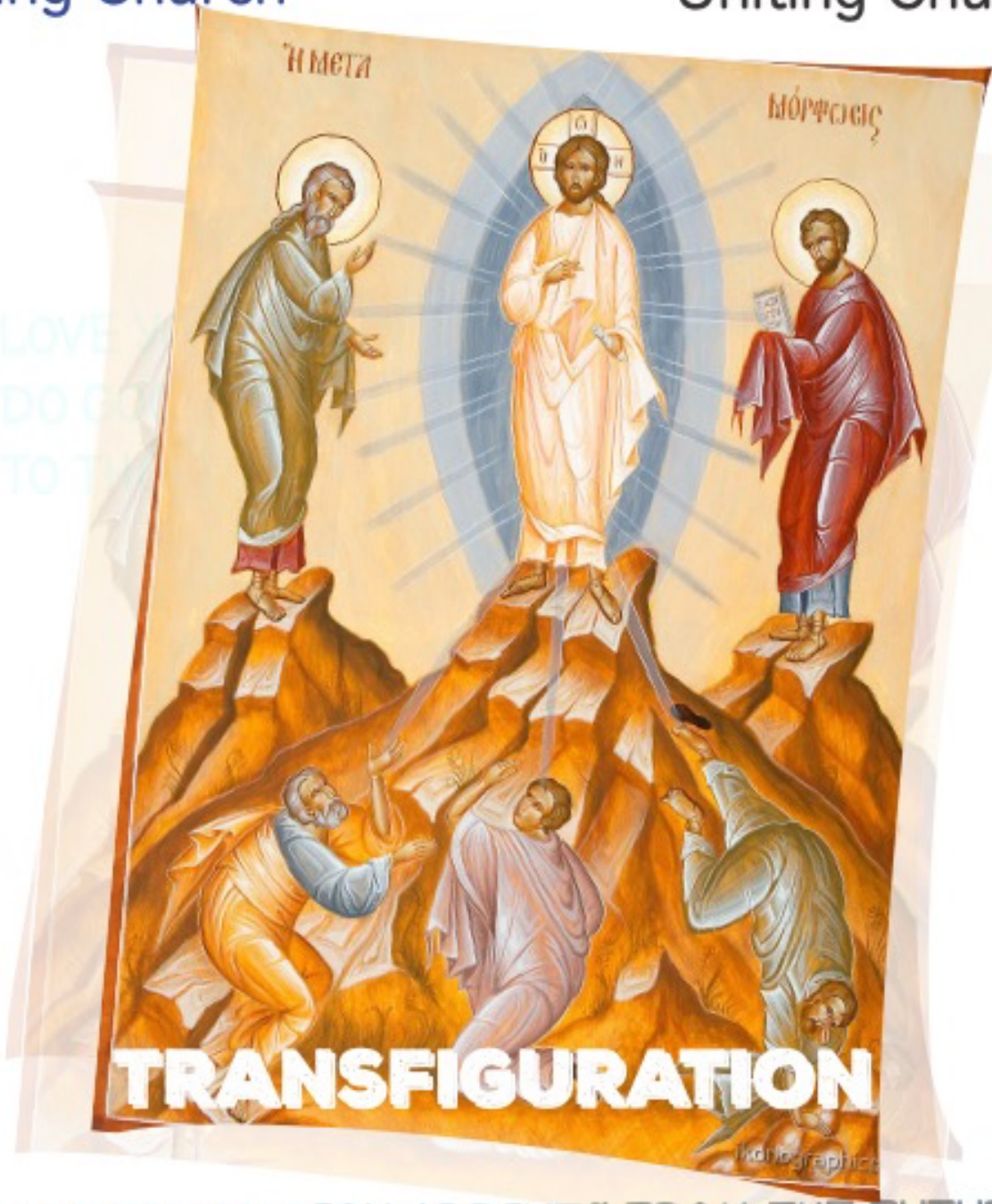


Parramatta Community
Uniting Church

Leigh Memorial
Uniting Church



TRANSFIGURATION ARRIVES FROM THE FUTURE,
INTERRUPTS DAILY OBSESSIONS,
SHAKES US OUT OF SLEEPWALKING THROUGH LIFE

11 February 2024

WELCOME

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Burramattagal people of the Darug Nation and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony. The same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the Burramattagal people and gave them particular insights into God's ways. Therefore, we honour the wisdom of the Burramattagal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

(Using words from the Preamble to the Uniting Church Constitution)

We pause to remember and pay our respects for Lowitja O'Donoghue, a Yankunytjatjara leader and activist who died last week at the age of 91. She was a pioneering leader in Aboriginal advancement and recognition campaigns.

PRAYER

The darkness loves to parade itself, oh God,
to draw our attention and steal our energy,
to engulf, to overwhelm with fear and anxiety
when we face ill health, pain, loss, suffering and injustice.

But, if our focus is transfigured
we discover that there is another reality;
that your light shines undimmed,
that your care is undiminished,
that your strength and protection
are unfailing.

And so, even in the midst of ill health, pain, loss and suffering
even when it seems your light is almost out,
we choose to remain under the shadow of your Mothering wings;

*to trust in your transfiguring liberation,
to share your words of your coming realm,
and to dispel the darkness
by lighting the flame of faith, compassion, hope and justice
in our hearts and in our world.*

Amen.

Adapted: Sacredise, Vladimir Korotkov

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

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 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.*

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 bones.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS **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

In these words God speaks to us!

May they come alive in our living!

Amen!

SONG **When the light is gone, Paul Zach**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lk_VW71al3M

1. The tender mercy of our God
Still holds us when the light is gone
His guiding hand and guarding rod
Are with us as we wait for dawn

[chorus]

Oh, though sorrow entered with the night
Oh, yet even now we know his light
Oh
Ooh

2. His love is steady as the stars
Whose ancient light is burning still
He walks beside us in the dark
The emptiness within us fills

[chorus]

Oh, though night is long he's with us now
Oh, in mercy's everlasting hour
Oh

3. As every night will have its end
We know the sun will have to rise
Our loving Christ will take our hand
And wipe the tears from every eye

[chorus]

Oh, for Christ has come, the day draws near
Oh, and even now he meets us here
Oh, even now he meets us here
Yes, even now he meets us here

REFLECTION

SONG **Christ, be our light**

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Bernadette Farrell 1957- With permission One License#A727308

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 bring life and healing to us all. *Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN **Faith hope and love** *Trisha Watts*

1. Faith hope and love this is what we long for
faith hope and love this is what we need
faith hope and love this is what we cry for
oh teach us how to live

2. Trust in the truth this is what we long for
trust in the truth this is what we need
trust in the truth this is what we cry for
oh teach us how to live

3. Patience within this is what we long for
patience within this is what we need
patience within this is what we cry for
oh teach us how to live

4. Freedom for all this is what we long for
freedom for all this is what we need
freedom for all this is what we cry for
oh teach us how to live

5. Faith hope and love this is what we long for
faith hope and love this is what we need
faith hope and love this is what we cry for
oh teach us how to live.

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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

Prayers are offered for the world and our congregation

HYMN **Teach me to dance**

Refrain

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart
Teach me to move in the power of your spirit
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart*

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart
Teach me to move in the power of your spirit
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart*

1. You Wrote The Rhythm Of Life
Created Heaven And Earth
In You Is Joy Without Measure
So, Like A Child In Your Sight
I Dance To See Your Delight
For I Was Made For Your Pleasure, Pleasure

Refrain

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart
Teach me to move in the power of your spirit
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart*

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart
Teach me to move in the power of your spirit
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart*

2. Let All My Movements Express
A Heart That Loves To Say 'Yes'
A Will That Leaps To Obey You
Let All My Energy Blaze
To See The Joy In Your Face
Let My Whole Being Praise You, Praise You

*Refrain
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart
Teach me to move in the power of your spirit
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart*

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart
Teach me to move in the power of your spirit
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart*

*Steve Thompson 1952 and Graham Kendrick 1950-
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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)

SONG *For you (Deep stillness)*

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland,
for you, deep blue of the desert skies,
for you, flame red of the rocks and stones,
for you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges seek the heartlands,
and when you're burnt by the journey,
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.

In the name of Christ,
in the name of Christ.

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland,
for you, deep blue of the desert skies,
for you, flame red of the rocks and stones,
for you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges seek the heartlands,
and when you're burnt by the journey,
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In the name of Christ,
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in the name of Christ,
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