

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=kOl-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 alleluias 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

2Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2Elijah 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. 3The 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. 5The 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. 7Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8Then 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.' 10He 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.' 11As 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. 12Elisha 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.

Today's Gospel Reading: 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, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Then 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.' 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' 8 Suddenly 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.

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

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Local Churches 363610

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.