



# The Methodist Church

## Ministries: Vocations & Worship

**['Worship at Home - Sunday 27 February 2022**

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.

### **Opening Prayer**

Transforming God, come to us now in this time of worship we pray. May we know your hand upon us and your arm around us . **Amen.**

### **Hymn: StF 503 Love divine all loves excelling**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPbD2G3i-7Y>

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,

never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without  
ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

Let us pray together

From the highest peak to the lowest  
valley, from the crowded city to the  
most remote of shorelines, may your  
name be praised O God!

You are the one who is far beyond  
our imaginings and yet you are as  
close to us as life and breath itself,

you our creator, redeemer and sustainer.

We ask that you would open our eyes so that we might behold your glory, open our ears so that we might hear your word for us and, above all, open our hearts to your transforming love so that we might know your eternal presence and peace.

**Amen.**

**Today's Gospel Reading:** Luke 9:28-36

The Transfiguration

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake,<sup>[b]</sup> they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,<sup>[c]</sup> one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> While he

was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen;<sup>[d]</sup> listen to him!' <sup>36</sup> 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.

### **Time to Reflect**

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus takes Peter, James and John with him into the remoteness of the mountains to pray and, as he does so, Jesus is transfigured and shines with God's glory.

In that moment, Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets) suddenly appear alongside Jesus testifying to who he is.

Let us not forget that both Moses and Elijah themselves went high into the mountains and hills to pray and to meet God; to find direction for the future. As Jesus stands side by side with these iconic figures from the Old Testament, the past and the future are brought together and there is an extraordinary breakthrough of the divine into time and space.

It is not just that the veil between earth and heaven seems very thin; it

is actually drawn aside. God's glory is revealed and the future comes into the present.

By their very nature, mountain-top experiences are fleeting and rare and often come out of the blue - yet when they happen their impact and effect upon us last far longer than the actual moment itself.

As we reflect upon this passage from Luke's Gospel in the context of our own lives, I wonder about our mountain-top experiences. Have we had any? If so, how did we react and what was our response? Looking back upon them, were they seminal moments in our lives?

Writing in the Guardian, some years ago now, Oliver Burkeman spoke of 'thin places', "a Celtic Christian term for 'those rare locales where the distance between heaven and Earth collapses', to quote Eric Weiner."

It seems to me that those 'thin place' moments and mountain-top experiences are speaking about the very same thing. Those times when we suddenly become aware of the sense and presence of the divine and we know that God is with us.

As we ready ourselves once more for our Lenten journey setting off into the rugged wilderness, may we be both attentive to and aware of those

thin places and mountain-top moments and allow them to transform us as God continues to change us 'from glory into glory'!

Take time to sit quietly

### **A time of prayer**

Loving God,  
In these confusing and uncertain times, may your love, truth and power bring  
light to where there is darkness  
peace to where there is violence  
love to where there is hatred  
understanding to where there is confusion  
trust to where there is suspicion  
dignity to where there is shame  
healing to where there is disease  
justice to where there is oppression  
and freedom to where there is captivity.  
Transform your people, your world and your church we pray,  
for we ask these things in and through the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and Saviour.  
Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

**Hymn: Listen to** Transfiguration form Hillsong Worship  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pri10SRoBPc>

## **A prayer of blessing.**

Transforming God,  
As we begin this new week,  
may we know that you travel with us  
and all those for who we have  
prayed,  
now and forever more. Amen

Original materials by Revd Keith  
Underhill

All Hymns reproduced under CCLi  
1144191.

Local Churches CCCLi 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.

For more worship resources see

[The Bible \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

[Singing the Faith Plus  
\(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)