**MACEDON RANGES PARTNERSHIP SERVICE – Transfiguration Sunday**

**12th – 14th February 2021**

You may like to follow our service on our video. You can find it on our Worship Services page on our website at <https://www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au/worship-services> or on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/GG8ZeKwkDYg](https://youtu.be/GG8ZeKwkDYg%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

 Our service invites you to read the scriptures, pause, meditate and pray. Allow the stories told to lead you. We suggest reading the passages when suggested below. We are touching on several of the scripture readings in one way or another this week.

If you would like to look at previous videos on our YouTube channel, go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb4hzdO-YgzmrIRVC-oby_w>.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge all the Aboriginal Groups who have cared for and nurtured the land on which we meet: the Wurundjeri; Woi Wurruung; Taungurung and Dja Dja Wurrung.

We acknowledge their leaders: past, present and emerging for it is in them that Australia’s future lies.

You are welcome here, as we reflect in different rooms and districts, States and Countries around the world, our spiritual connectedness through Christ Jesus, is remembered.

**WELCOME and CALL TO WORSHIP** by *Rev. Karla*

posted on <http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.ca/>

Holy One,

We come before you,

many of us feeling like we have climbed just a part of the mountain,

and there is so much more of a climb left to even get to point

to dream that we might be dazzled by what is Divine.

Our loads are heavy,

with worry, with regret,

with fatigue, with illness,

with despair for all in the world

that is hurting, in danger, in bondage and more.

We trudge ahead, following you,

stumbling, hoping, praying...

breathing hard, hearts pounding, and yes,

even some of us are nimble and skipping.

Lead us Lord,

to the top of that mountain,

where we might be dazzled by your Light,

lifted by what is Divine,

filled by the sheer delight

of what is numinous and ethereal and grounded and real.

We pray this,

for ourselves, for one another,

and for the worlds in which we live in.

Amen.

**SONG: Psalm 50** by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan *or*

**TiS 447** Let there be light

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Mercy and Grace,

you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth

to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us:

Yet we maintain walls that separate and isolate.

You give us the ministry of reconciliation:

Yet we nurse our wounds and withhold mercy and forgiveness.

You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John

on the mountain of Transfiguration:

Yet we deny the wonders you have worked in our own lives.

You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth:

Yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us.

You bless our lives with boundless love:

Yet we fail to witness to that love,

and so keep others from knowing you.

Forgive our selfishness, we pray.

Transform us by your Spirit and your Word

into that which pleases you,

the image of Christ.   Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** ~ *from “God of Awe and Glory,” written by the Rev. Dr. Renee C. Jackson*

Posted on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways>

Jesus admonished Peter, James, and John

not to tell of what they witnessed on the mountain

until he was resurrected.

But we can tell what we have seen and heard of God’s glory!

Here is the good news:

Jesus lives! He is raised! We are forgiven!

Go, share the vision!

Tell of God’s love! In this God is well pleased!

**BIBLE READINGS:** 2 Kings 2:1-14.

You may like to read today’s other readings: Ps 50, 2 Cor 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-10

**REFLECTION** *by Ps Annette Buckley*

On Transfiguration Sunday we usually focus on that wonder-full story of Jesus’ meeting on the mountaintop with Moses and Elijah, watched by Peter, James and John. This time, however, the story of Elijah’s departure from earthly life and Elisha’s journey with him seemed to have much to say to us. It is a story filled with emotion, brought on by the imminent change in Elijah’s circumstances. The bands of prophets are alert, anxious to talk about what’s going on; Elijah is focused on his task…bent on the journey to the Jordan but still trying to be in control; Elisha is…well, how Elisha is is open to interpretation. Is he calm and trusting in God for whatever the future holds, or is he increasingly tense as the prophets keep reminding him about the coming events? How does he feel about having the mantle passed to him, now that he is responsible for following in the footsteps of his eminent mentor? Are his words “Be still” words of annoyance at the other prophets (stop carrying on!) or are they words of assurance (all is well, God is in control)?

I’m rewriting this reflection following the news that Victoria is to go into lockdown again, and emotions are running high. How will we respond? We had been used to living relatively freely, and suddenly we have lurched several steps backwards. We hope that this is indeed only for 5 days, but there is a lot of uncertainty, not to mention the difficulties for people who have arranged trips, gatherings, perhaps even weddings thinking that all would be well. We might not have had time to shop for what we need for the next 5 days, and we might have to postpone a non-emergency medical visit once again. And, like the prophets in the 2 Kings story, everyone is talking, speculating, wondering, worrying…. and we just want to say “Be still!!”

It can feel like a whirlwind is taking away things we hold dear. We can be fearful of what might happen next, wondering how on earth we can get through this if it keeps happening. We can also remember that God is with us, in sometimes spectacular and surprising ways. We are given the resources to do what we must. We are blessed by the example of mentors and saints who have gone before us and shown us the way.

Go gently in the coming days. Reach out to those who might be struggling, but also be aware that you can reach out and ask for the help you need as well. God is with you. Be still.

**HYMN: God gives us a future**

**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS** *by Christine Jerrett*https://christinejerrett.wordpress.com

God of glory,

you took your friends with you

when you went to pray on the mountain.

You revealed to them

the glory of Jesus,

your beloved Son,

on his way to the cross.

We do not live on mountaintops,

but we, too, would glimpse your glory

in the ordinary days of our lives,

and in the community of your Son

in which you have chosen to dwell.

We look for you among people who have

no power

no rights

no voice.

We look for you among those who

live on the streets of our city,

whose housing is inadequate,

whose homes are not safe.

We look for you among those who

grieve a past that is no more

and fear a future that seems full of loss.

God who meets us

in the broken places,

shine the light of Christ deep into our lives,

so we may carry that light into dark places

and point to the One

whose brokenness is our salvation. Amen

**Sending out and blessing:** by *Rev. Madison Shockley* Posted on the United Church of Christ’s [**Worship Ways**](http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/)website

O Holy One,

on mountaintops and valley floors

you reveal to us the light of your love.

Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory

of the divine presence.

With each encounter we are changed and transformed.

Draw us nearer

that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit.

Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.

May we walk among our brothers and sister as a blessing,

bearing light into dark places,

hope to displace despair,

and love that casts out hate.

Our world is hurting

and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely.

Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying,

… “listen to my Child, the Beloved!” Amen.

**OFFERING**

You may like to consider giving an offering to your congregation via direct deposit. Details for each are:

* Gisborne: Gisborne branch, Bendigo bank, B.S.B. 633 108, A/C: 1512 83736
* Romsey: Bendigo Bank, B.S.B. 633 000, A/C: 161501200, Account name: UCA Romsey Uniting Church
* Lancefield: Account Name: Lancefield Uniting Church, BSB: 633 108, A/C No: 112926639
* Mia Mia – Kyneton: Commonwealth bank, B.S.B. 063 517, Account no.: 1002 1775

 *I will publish other congregation’s details as they come to hand. Contact you congregation’s treasurer for details if they are not here.*