

**The Rectorial Benefice of the East Vale**  
**Morning Prayer**  
**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**Sunday before Lent | Transfiguration Sunday**

**Hymn**

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee:  
Joyless is the day's return,  
till thy mercy's beams I see,  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiance divine;  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.**

**The Collect**

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*First Reading* (2 Kings 2.1-12)

A reading from the second book of the Kings.

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

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Responsorial Psalm* (50:1-6)

**R/ 'Listen to my Son, the Beloved!'**

The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken: and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth: our God comes and will not keep silence. **R/**

Consuming fire goes out before him: and a mighty tempest stirs about him. He calls the heaven above: and the earth, that he may judge his people: **R/**

"Gather to me my faithful: who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice." Let the heavens declare his righteousness: for God himself is judge. **R/**

*Second Reading* (2 Corinthians 4.3-6)

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Give praise to his name.**

**God has proclaimed the just reward:**

**'Life for all men, alleluia!'**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!...**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Listen to the gospel of Christ according to St Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 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.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Belovèd; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Come, let us praise the living God,**

**joyfully sing to our Saviour.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!...**

### **The Homily**

I can't believe that we have nearly reached another Lent. Who would have thought that this time last year that we would have experienced the 11 months that we have just gone through? Looking ahead I feel much positivity, as the rates of infections are falling, and I hear of more and more people receiving the vaccine every day. Of course, we still need to be as safe as we can and to follow the guidance and rules as carefully as ever.

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, but before we begin Lent, we observe Transfiguration Sunday today. This event in the life of Jesus is so important that it's recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke, as well as in the second letter of Peter. Jesus went up the mountain to

pray. Jesus often went off for quiet times to refresh his ministry. This pandemic has taught us the importance of discerning where we receive our refreshment and energy. If we don't then we will soon burn out and be unable to function efficiently as humans and as Christians. In the gospels the transfiguration takes place immediately after Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi, when he declared that Jesus was the Christ. The transfiguration sets God's seal on that declaration of Peter.

In the transfiguration, Jesus appears with Moses and Elijah. Moses representing the Law, and Elijah representing the prophets. These were the two cornerstones of the Jewish faith and Jesus is seen as the fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets. Jesus is the Christ, God's chosen one, as previously proclaimed by Peter at Caesarea Philippi. On the mountain, Jesus was transfigured in glory, and yet it was an event that looked ahead to his journey to Jerusalem and the Cross. Luke alone mentions what Moses and Elijah and Jesus spoke about. He writes, 'They appeared in glory and spoke of His departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem.' The cross and the empty tomb; defeat and victory side by side.

Jesus' departure or exodus was to be accomplished on the cross. The story of the exodus in the Old Testament is of Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. Christ's exodus is the story of our deliverance from the slavery of sin, accomplished by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The glory of the transfiguration points to the pain of the cross and the new life that lay beyond. It was an event that reassured the disciples who Jesus was. It gave them a glimpse of the glory, but also the suffering of the cross and then the triumph of the resurrection and the empty tomb. It was an event that transfigured the disciples. It was the followers of Jesus who were changed and strengthened. When you think about it, Jesus didn't need to change. He was transfigured for their benefit.

It is only when you open your eyes and your hearts, as they did, that you see Jesus properly and are able to truly follow Him. The disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration; Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb; the disciples on the road to Emmaus. These all had their eyes opened and saw the Lord. Jesus didn't change on the mountain. It was the disciples who changed. They had their eyes opened to see the Lord. They changed through this spiritual experience. Peter misunderstood and wanted to stay and build a shelter for them instead of returning to the everyday challenges of life. We may have moments of closeness to God, but we must exercise our faith in the business of our daily encounters with other people. We show our faith through the love that we have for others.

### **Fr Martyn**

Yet these times of spiritual growth are also important. Lent provides us with opportunities to grow. Lent has sometimes been called God's Springtime, because of the growth that is possible. As we look from the Mount of Transfiguration to the Cross of Calvary and the empty tomb, Lent stretches before us, with the opportunities to change and grow.

The challenge for today is to ask yourself 'How can I change and grow in Lent?' 'How can I grow during God's Springtime?'

**'My Jesus I love thee'**

*The Single Singers with Roger Masterman*

*Hymn [Requested by Lynne Mordecai]*

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here;  
Come bow before him now,  
with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found,  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned:  
How awesome is the sight  
our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place;  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace  
No work too hard for him,  
in faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.**

**The Intercessions**

Let us pray to the Father who has revealed his glory through his Son...

Guide the church to be faithful to the wisdom of the past and open to the revelation of the future. As we rejoice in our times of worship, keep us from lingering too long on the heights, but lead us back to do the work appointed for us. Bless June, our bishop, and the

retired staff and clergy who assist in the benefices of Lagunda and the East Vale.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Grant to the world the vision of your glory. Come to those whose vision is veiled by the concerns of this world and give them light. May those who hold authority find the inner peace that will lead them to seek the peace of the nations.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

May our lives be so filled with the glory of the Lord that we may show his grace in our lives. Bless our homes and all those who are near to us, with the wonder the disciples experienced on the holy mountain.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer and feel far away from divine love, remembering especially... (Name may be mentioned). Bring into their lives the radiance of hope and courage to look beyond the present and trust in the promise of a happier time to come.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Receive in mercy those who have walked through the veil of death to behold your glory... (Names may be mentioned). May we with them one day behold your true radiance.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

In a moment of stillness we offer our own prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh and revealed in glory.

**Merciful Father  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

## Hymn

**Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light.**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light.**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light.**

## Prayers for the sick

Elizabeth Thomas	Betty Hicks
Kath Loughor	Colin Bailey
Eunice Wood	Sophie Sabit
Catherine Brynach	Helen
Margaret Price	Kevin Hurst
Stephen Gray	Orla Elizabeth O'Grady
Brendan	Lorna Powell
Barbara Goodway	

## Prayers for the departed

Shirley Gwilliam	Raymond Reeve
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## Hymn Requests

If you have any hymn requests for our Zoom worship please send them to one of the clergy team. We will do our best to put requests into our services over the next few weeks.

## Bible Study Group

If you would like a link to our Bible Study Group which meets on Wednesdays 6-7pm the next session will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, please email Rev Angela at [angelacooper03@gmail.com](mailto:angelacooper03@gmail.com). It is a very friendly informal group and is open to all.

## Children's Saturday Club

Just a reminder that we are still running a Children's club on Zoom every Saturday at 10am during term time. If you would like to join or know a family that might want to join, please email Rev Angela at [angelacooper03@gmail.com](mailto:angelacooper03@gmail.com)

## Smarties

We are inviting people to eat a tube of smarties before Ash Wednesday and then fill them with coins to help support our Lent Charity. Packs are available for children that also include a prayer card with a cross.

## Lent Charity

Our Lent Charity this year is Huggard, the Cardiff Homeless Shelter. They are appealing for help with certain items such as small sized clothes for men. A list of these items will be available soon. Clothes can be ordered online and then collected across the East Vale to be delivered to Huggard. People may prefer to give a cash donation.