

The Anglican Church of Australia
The Diocese of Wangaratta

26th February 2017
Last Sunday after Epiphany
TRANSFIGURATION

Hymns: 234, 193, 212, 613



WITH BROADFORD, TALLAROOK
& PYALONG



Attr. to Giovanni Francesco Penni, modello for the Transfiguration, Albertina, Vienna

Introit Hymn

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

Suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!' *Matthew 17.5*

THE COLLECT

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Exodus 24.12-18

[God calls Moses to come up the mountain to receive God's commands, and he obeys and spends 40 days and nights with God on the mountain.]

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.' Then Moses set out with Joshua his assistant, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. He said to the elders, 'Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them.' When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 2

[A Royal Psalm reflecting on the antagonism of the nations against God's anointed king, and affirming God's claim of the king as God's son.]

Response: Happy are all who take their refuge in him.

Response

Andrew Wright

cf. v. 12 Hap - py are all who take their re - fuge in him.



Why are the nations in tumult, and why do the peoples devise a vain plot?
The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and against his anointed:

'Let us break their bonds asunder and cast away their cords from us./R

He who dwells in heaven shall laugh them to scorn;
the Lord shall have them in derision.
Then shall he speak to them in his wrath and terrify them in his fury:
'Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.'/R

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord;
he said to me: 'You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.
'Ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
'You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'/R

Now therefore be wise, O kings; be prudent, you judges of the earth.
Serve the Lord with fear, and with trembling kiss his feet,
lest he be angry and you perish from the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Happy are all they who take refuge in him./R

SECOND READING

2 Peter 1.16-21

[Peter affirms the reliability of his teaching, and that of the other apostles, reminding his readers of his experience with Jesus on the mountain, and confirming his trust in the message of the prophets.]

A reading from second letter of Peter

Peter writes, 'For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty. He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

This is my | Son, my Chosen,
lis- | ten to him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 17.1-9

[Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain, where he is transfigured and talks to Moses and Elijah who appear with him. He is proclaimed by God as God's beloved son.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Holy and affirming God, you welcome us into your sacred spaces and your glory is revealed; may those stunning moments of spiritual clarity be life-changing, yet the real measure of our faithfulness is in how we live for the rest of the time; grant us grace to be as Christ to the world in all we do and say and are, that we too might reveal your glory.

God of all glory; **hear our prayer.**

Holy and affirming God, we give thanks for the good news that unfolds in the world as people dream your dreams, follow your nudging, and seek you in the faces they meet each day; we pray for your church and for all who show us the glimpses of you; for our Diocese, John our Bishop, and our parish as we seek to find our future as your people in this place and for all those who are quiet witness to your love and way of life and reveal your glory.

God of all glory; **hear our prayer.**

Holy and loving God, we pray for the peoples of the world, especially those afflicted by war and destruction; especially the people of the Syria and Iraq and in particular all suffering in Mosul; for the peoples of South Sudan facing famine and for those seeking to assist; for all held in refugee camps across the world that their dreams of home and safety be affirmed; for resolution of the Israel - Palestine disputes over statehood

God of all glory; **hear our prayer.**

Holy and affirming God, we pray for our nation and for those tasked with leadership that all may share in the resources of the land; for the families of those

who died in the Essendon plane crash; for all impacted by the cut in Sunday penalty rates; for the homeless and unemployed and those burdened by having to work too hard and demand much of themselves and their families.

God of all glory; **hear our prayer.**

Holy and loving God, we pray for our broken world; for the lost, the lonely, the hungry and the deprived; those whom society has deemed as unlovable; for those suffering terminal and chronic illnesses, those tormented by thoughts and psychic pain, and those needing respite from the demands of caring; for all in need and those who have requested prayer;

Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Barbara Kaye, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Elaine Haddock, Joy Rowe, Francis Piva, Sharon De Battista.

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

God of all glory; **hear our prayer.**

Holy and affirming God, we give thanks for your prophets and holy people of every age, for Moses and Elijah, for Peter, James and John and for all who have beheld your glory; for the recently departed, those who lost their lives in the Essendon plane disaster; and for those year's mind occurring at this time;

26th John Brown, Rex Collett; 28th John Smith, Cecil Edge, Douglas Boulton; March 1st Mieczyslaw Kazuro, Walter Homewood, Beverley Meldrum; 3rd Ernest Bidstrup; 4th Jamie Buck, Mavis Eades, Doris Inness, Pearl Foster.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

God of all glory; **hear our prayer.**

Holy and loving God, we too are in need of a glimpse of your Jesus; hear us as we pray for ourselves; grant us the courage to take up his invitation to follow in his footsteps walking the way of love and justice, and may we like Peter, James, and John come down from the mountain, setting one foot in front of the other in your name and for your sake.

God of all glory; **hear our prayer.**

Holy and affirming God, you have promised to hear us when we pray in faith, fulfil our prayers, hopes and dreams so that your glory might be revealed, in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reflections on the Readings

The heart of the readings for the transfiguration is God's affirmation – especially of Christ. In Exodus, Moses is called to meet with God on the mountain to receive God's commands, which affirms the leadership and ministry of Moses, and foreshadows the meeting of Jesus with God on the mountain. Psalm 2 expresses God's affirmation of God's son. Peter draws attention to his experience of Christ's transfiguration, of God's voice affirming Christ, and hence the affirmation of the trustworthiness of the prophets' message. All of these passages serve to draw our attention to God's voice speaking from out of the cloud and affirming Christ, as well as to the affirmation of Moses and Elijah in their appearance to Christ in this event. Since Jesus was affirmed as the Christ in this way, it raises the question of what that means for us. In the first place, it must challenge us to reflect again on our view of Christ. It must cause us to think again about the way in which we believe God's affirmation and act on it in our response to Christ. In the second place, God's affirmation of Christ, becomes the basis on which we trust and adopt Christ's way of living – as Peter suggests. This moment, placed before Christ turns toward his death, was intended to affirm again that his way of sacrifice is God's chosen way. This was an advance assurance for the disciples, who faced deep doubt in the face of Christ's death, but is also an affirmation for us as we face times when Christ's way appears to be “failing” or costing us too much, or doesn't make sense. God's affirmation of Christ can and must inform the work we do as Christ-followers in the world. This may mean that we need to resist the temptation towards functional atheism, in which we get so caught up in the work of justice and addressing social ills that we become little more than a social justice organisation. It may mean ensuring that we remain committed to Christ's sacrificial way, even though more expedient, but less ethical, possibilities are available to us. It may mean preserving our own spirituality so that the radiance of Christ shines from us, even when we're faced with conflict, persecution, struggle or misunderstanding. Whatever it may mean for us specifically, there is no question that the light of Christ's character and Christ's way of living are desperately needed in our world. Another implication is the powerful role that affirmation can play in bringing justice into the world. It is easy to criticise, easy to break down and easy to oppose. But, real life and justice are found when we seek and find common ground, even with our antagonists. This approach was what got Nelson Mandela into dialogue with F.W. De Klerk in the process which ended apartheid. For when we take the time and energy to affirm the creativity and resilience of the poor, when we affirm the courage of peacemakers, when we affirm the servanthood of those who work with the homeless and those on the fringes of society, we strengthen the efforts of these faithful people, and support the work of justice in the world. When we affirm the efforts, the good intentions and the positive work that is done by those we disagree with, we build bridges which can lead to peace and justice. And when we affirm one another, we give ourselves the courage and strength to persevere even in the face of great hardship. The Transfiguration, then, is not just an amazing event of the past. As we follow Christ's way, we embrace God's affirmation of Christ, and as we follow God's example of affirmation, we allow the light of Christ to shine brighter in our world.

Notices

Today is the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, which means this week the church will begin observing Lent. The beginning of Lent is marked by Ash Wednesday, which falls on 1st March this year. The Lenten period of 40 days, which, traditionally, does not include Sundays, commemorates the "40 days and 40 nights" that Jesus fasted and was tempted in the desert (Matthew 4.2).

Ash Wednesday Liturgy & Imposition of Ashes 7pm Wednesday 1st March St Matthew's Broadford.

World Day of Prayer Service 10.00am Friday 3rd March - Salvation Army Broadford, Focus on the Philippines - Speaker Shirley Kawalski All Welcome.

Lenten Study 2017 "Returning Home" Study - Friday 3rd March 7.30pm at 13 The Parade, Bradford. The 2017 Lent resource explores how Christian faith has been deepened and enriched by encounters with people of different religions through exploring familiar Lenten themes. Christians who have lived alongside, and worked with, people of other faiths, often express their surprise and appreciation that their own Christian faith has been enriched by these encounters.

Harvest Festival Sunday 12th March will be celebrated at Kilmore, St Matthews and St Stephens - please bring produce, preserves, & contributions to the service and later for auction at Parish BBQ at Gavan Hall at 12.30pm. Meat provided please bring salads and sweets to share. This will be an ABM Fundraiser.

Property Committee - meetings are currently suspended.

Chamber Philamonia of Cologne Concert last Sunday evening was a very successful occasion with 145 people packing our the church - many thanks to all who assisted especially John Patterson and the Gavan Hall Committee for catering.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings - Account details: BENDIGO BANK - Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore'; BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921. Parishioners using direct debit or electronic funds transfer please use these bank details when making offerings.

Parish life this week

Wednesday Mar 1st 7.00pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy - St Matthew's Broadford.
Thursday 2nd 10.00am Eucharist St Matthews
10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade
11.30am Eucharist Caladenia
4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
Friday 3rd 10.00am World Day of Prayer, Salvation Army Broadford
11.00am Deanery Meeting St Matthews & Gavan Hall
10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop Church House
Saturday 4th 10.00am-12.00pm Op Shop Church House

Next Sunday: 5th March 2017 First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 Ps 32; Romans 5.12-21; Matthew 4.1-11

Christ Church at Senior Citizens Club	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration	4pm	Holy Eucharist

Parish Clergy:

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Parishioners and visitors are advised that photographs may be taken of activities in the Parish from time to time for use on Parish website, Facebook and for publication in the Advocate. If you do not wish to be included in a photo please stand clear of the group at the time. Photos are never taken without a warning