

Sunday 15th Feb '26

(prepared from Roots)

Call to worship

Jesus' glory and identity was revealed to his disciples.
We come today to see the glory of God.
We come to know Jesus, the Son of God.
We come to be dazzled by God's presence among us.
We come for all to be revealed that we might listen more closely to God's Word.

Hymn StF 28 Jesus calls us

Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fall or fail.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other,
vastly different though we are;
creed and colour, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

John L Bell (b1949) and Graham Maule (b1958)

Prayers

Living God, we are here to worship today because we love you, because we want to celebrate you.
We rejoice because you are here to cherish our worship, to receive our praise, and to fill our hearts with your wisdom, your joy and a deep longing for your kingdom to come in our world.

Faithful God: please forgive us when we are here in body, but not in spirit,
and may your morning star rise in our hearts;
please forgive us when we listen but do not hear,
and may your morning star rise in our hearts;
please forgive us when we hear but do not believe,
and may your morning star rise in our hearts;

please forgive us when we believe but do not share our faith,
and may your morning star rise in our hearts.

God of light, of hope and of healing, although we do not always feel forgiven, and struggle to accept the gifts you would give, we rejoice in the fact that your Son lived, died and rose again for each one of us that we might not be burdened by the past but set free to live, fully and faithfully, every day.

God of good news: for eyewitnesses who share for all who were there, **we praise you;**
for your living Word, your loving heart that calls us all to play our part, **we praise you.**
We thank you for your presence here; help us to know that you are near, **as we praise you. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Reading 2 Peter 1 16-21

Thought for the week from Roots

I was there

Have you ever listened to a eulogy at a funeral and thought, 'If that was me, I would have wanted to leave out that part!' The great thing about recounting an event from your own life is that you can do a little editing, because it is your story to tell in the way that makes the most sense to you.

The account of the transfiguration on the mountain, as recorded by Matthew, is echoed by Peter's later letter. Even if not written by Peter himself, the memory rings true as a record of what he experienced and how he felt. Looking at the event across the three synoptic Gospels, Peter features centre stage in each. Matthew recorded that Peter offered to put up three dwellings, one each for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Luke's account adds 'not knowing what he said.' Mark goes further, justifying the impetuous suggestion with the reasonable explanation: 'for they were terrified'. Between these three reports of one event there are varying levels of information, just as we would expect to find in contemporary articles across a range of newspapers. We each see an event from an angle, or hear it from a source, or choose to include or forget some details.

Has anyone been a witness to an event that they were asked later to describe, perhaps an accident? It's rare to have all the details – by the time you realise it is happening it is over and you missed the crucial moment – for example, before you heard the impact, you would not have looked in the right direction to notice the car skidding.

Peter was there, very present, with supernatural events unfolding close-up and shining with glory. Even

though terrified, and no doubt blinded to some details, he would never forget the moment and how it made him feel. It is therefore interesting that when he tells the story for himself, he leaves out the whole business about the shelters and makes no mention of his confusion and fear. What he focuses on is the majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ and the voice of 'Majestic Glory' confirming Jesus as God's Son. Everything else had become insignificant in the light of that glory.

In his re-telling, he speaks of the present darkness and then looks forward to the day that will dawn when the morning star rises in our hearts. For him, and he hopes for his readers, his personal encounter on the mountain confirms this – that Jesus will come again in glory. He should know: he was there!

Prayers for others

Lord, we come before you in prayer, sharing our concerns for our world, our church, our neighbours and friends and ourselves. We don't ask lightly; we accept you may call us as part of the answer, and we trust that you will give us strength and courage to stand up for justice and to make a difference. Creator God, you formed this earth, with all its beauty and abundance, ensuring provision for all and charging humankind to be stewards of creation. We pray for all who go hungry or thirsty or who are impoverished through the greed of others; for those close to home needing food banks and those further away needing emergency aid. The rising cost of living, natural disaster, climate change, war, governmental policy – all may contribute to increasing poverty. We remember those who are homeless or living in unsatisfactory accommodation. We pray that those who have enough may receive your spirit of generosity. Equip us to speak out and act for a more equitable distribution of resources. Lord, where there is injustice, **grant us courage to make a difference.**

Loving God, you created humankind in all its diversity, calling all to live in relationship with you and with one another. Nationality, ethnicity, appearance, sexuality, gender, age, economic status, mental health: there are so many ways we judge and label people as different. Lord, we pray for those who experience prejudice or persecution, hostility or isolation. We pray for places where there is division, especially where those with power or influence use the media and social media to promote distrust or hatred between neighbours. At this time we pray especially for Iran, Sudan, Gaza, America and we pray for our own country. Lord, where there is injustice, **grant us courage to make a difference.**

Parent God, you welcome all to be part of your family, the church. Through their faith, equip people to work together to fulfill your calling to justice, mercy and love. We pray for the work of those Christians and others who take brave steps to protect the rights of others, whether at risk of ridicule or at risk to their own lives. We pray for the persecuted church in countries such as North Korea, Somalia and Iran, and for those imprisoned for their faith. Lord, where there is injustice, **grant us courage to make a difference.**

Compassionate God, who cares for each one of us and whose plans are to prosper and not to harm us, we pray for all those in need of your loving care this day. We name before you in our hearts those known to us who are in any kind of trouble. We pray for all those whose needs are known only to themselves and to you. And, trusting in your mercy and love, we bring before you our own needs and concerns. We ask our prayers in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Hymn StF 548 Blessed assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood:

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love:

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest –
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love:

Frances Jane van Alstyne (Fanny Cosby) (1820-1915)

Closing prayer

Ever-present God, as we leave our time of worship, may we also take on the challenge of hearing your call to justice, and know that we do not leave that behind when we leave here. May we know true worship that brings growth, spreads light, and lifts the oppressed, and know that we do not leave that behind when we leave here.

Amen.