



Sunday 14 February 2021

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.
- To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page, <http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 Christ whose glory fills the skies (click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.

**Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for the Sunday before Lent

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 for ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the First Book of 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.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, ‘Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?’ When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. *2 Kings 2:1-14*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St 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. *2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 O perfect love

[\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All **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 Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, 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. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. *Mark 9:2-10*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Happy Valentine's day. Today is a day to remember your beloved, the one you love or maybe someone you have loved in the past. Perhaps this day brings memories of how, when and what took place when you first laid eyes on each other. Let's take a moment to think about how long it took before finally letting the one you love see the real you. Whether we want to admit it or not, very often we start out on our best behaviour and cover the real us. After all, we want to put the best foot forward and make a good first impression. When did you let them get to see the real you—without the makeup or the aftershave—the you that doesn't always smell or look your best—you with flaws and imperfections? When we find that someone who sees us the way we really are and they still love us, then we have found the one.

Today on this Transfiguration Sunday that happens to fall on Valentine's Day, we are allowed to see a bit more of someone we love. This person is someone we love with all our hearts because He first loved us. This person is Jesus. All through Epiphany Jesus has been revealing bit by bit more of who He really is—but never like we see Him in today's gospel! Today, as we listen to His Word, we get to follow

three disciples up the mountain of transfiguration. Today, we are privileged and honoured to See the Real Jesus. In His true glory. In His true humanity.

We read: 'About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.' We can't say for sure which mountain, but the main importance concerns what takes place on the mountain. Jesus begins to pray, as He often does, but then something extraordinary happens. Luke says: 'the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.' Mark says Jesus clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. Matthew says Jesus' face shone like the sun.

Jesus had revealed snippets of His glory as He changed water to wine, taught with the authority of no one else, and carried out other great accomplishments. But now we really see Christ's glory. Peter never forgot what he saw either as later he wrote: 'We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.'

If this isn't enough proof for our eyes of the glory that belongs to Jesus alone, there is still more. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared, talking with Jesus. Two great prophets of the Old Testament are suddenly standing there in glorious splendour. We know Moses died and was buried by God Himself. We know Elijah was taken directly to heaven on a fiery chariot in a whirlwind. Now these two men, who went to enjoy the glories of heaven, are right here chatting with Jesus like old friends. The real Jesus is God's Son and the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. But that still wasn't all that happened. Before Jesus came down the mountain 'a cloud appeared and enveloped them ... A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him".' Do you think you would listen to Him after seeing all this? We see the real Jesus in His true glory on the mountain—the glory that is His as true God from all eternity—His glory that we will one day see fully in heaven. We get a small but powerful glimpse of the glory of God's Son, the Lord's anointed, on this mountain.

After seeing Jesus' glory how would we respond? What would we have said after witnessing such an incredible sight? We can understand Peter's reaction, can't we? He wants more. He doesn't want it to end. He wants to build some shelters for each of them so they can stay on that mountain. It was good to be there, and right there he wanted to stay. But as Mark records, Peter did not know what he was saying. Because of the ramifications of what Peter was saying, his suggestion did not even get a response from Jesus. The same is true of us any time we want to make our

earthly homes and lives our heaven. We don't know what we are saying. God has something much greater in store for us. It is just as foolish of us when all we want from Jesus is for Him to show us His glory in His power and might and brilliance and give us all the earthly things our hearts desire. The truth is that attitude and idea doesn't even deserve a response from Jesus because He came to give us blessings far more precious than earthly treasures.

It is great to be on the mountain because there we see the real Jesus and His true glory as God. But that is not the only way we see the real Jesus; we also see the real Jesus in His true humanity. We see the real Jesus, the true man, when he descended this mount of glory so that He could climb another. Jesus talked about this next quest when he spoke with Moses and Elijah, 'about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem.' The Greek word used here for 'departure' is *exodus*. This word is loaded with meaning. God used Moses to lead an exodus of the people from their slavery in Egypt. And this same Moses is now talking with Jesus about a far greater exodus when Jesus will deliver the world from their slavery to sin, to the devil, and to death. Jesus came to lead people to a greater promised land, one that Moses and Elijah were already enjoying. This departure is about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem where Jesus will go willingly to suffer, die, and rise again.

This shows Jesus' true humanity, is where we see the real Jesus. This explains why Jesus, true God, also became fully human—so that He could die. This Lent, why not come and see once again the real Jesus. We see the real Jesus being betrayed and arrested. We see the real Jesus spat upon and punched. We see the real Jesus crowned with thorns and falsely accused. We see Jesus' real, dead body hanging there on the cross and then buried in a tomb. We see the real Jesus suffer real pain and punishment and endure a real death so that by His sacrifice, the sacrifice of the holy Son of God, all sin could be removed forever. We see the real Jesus proving His glory as the true Resurrection and the life on the third day, and then forty days later ascending back to His throne in heaven where He now prepares a place for us.

Here we have a real valentine's day story. Jesus, who is God in all His glory and shows as much on the mountain, displays His real love for us in His humanity. Jesus sees the real you and me just the way we really are, with all our flaws and weaknesses and sins, and He still loves us. He loves us so much so that 'while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' Now that is love. That is the real Jesus. Let's be glad we get to see Him. Let's be even more glad to know Him as our Saviour, our friend, our life. It is good for us to be here on the mountain and see the real Jesus in His glory. But this little foretaste of His glory is nothing compared to the glory He has won and prepared for us in a place we will surely never want to leave, the best part is we never will. Amen.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

Father, may we understand more of our faith and why we believe it. May we understand more of our doubt and not be too hard on it. May we commit ourselves to following you in the small details of our lives: in this particular fellowship; and at this particular time.

Lord in your Mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Lord, give to our national institutions – Government, the law, the health service, the unions, our schools, colleges and universities and the Church – give them the values of justice, fair representation, concern for the weak, equal opportunities for every person. And may the sheer generosity of your presence infuse our national life with hope and encouragement.

Lord in your Mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, Guard those of our loved ones who are vulnerable; strengthen those who are struggling; encourage those who are on the brink of something new. May the deep peace of the Prince of Peace keep them all. Circle the sick and the bereaved with your healing presence.

Lord in your Mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Farther of all, there are some we know who are simply not well; some who are fearful and in pain; some who are on their last journey. Circle them now, Lord, the very people we name in our hearts, circle them in the healing presence of Christ. May the touch of Christ be for them the touch of wholeness and healing.

Lord in your Mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Circle us, Lord. Our hearts, our homes, our church, our nation, our world. Circle us and let us never slip outside the enchantment of your grace.

Merciful Father,

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

The peace

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.

Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 How deep the Father's love for us ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
and the blessing of God the Almighty:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 Indescribable

[\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and saying,

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.