

**Sunday Morning
All Age Worship
Earlsdon Methodist Church
14th February 2021**

Theme: WoW! Mountain Top Experience



Almighty God, we ask you to show us something more of who you are and how awesome your presence is. Overcome our fear of the unknown and lead us into a new experience of you. May our worship today be as on a mountain-top, a transforming encounter that empowers our discipleship. **Amen.**



Hymn 41 StF: Blessed be Thy Name



Adoration, Confession and Thanksgiving

God of divine power, what a wonderful event the disciples experienced! One minute they were looking upon Jesus, the man. Next, they were tuned into your glory shining in and through him as he transformed before their eyes: your confirmation of his divinity.

God of life-changing moments, we glorify you.

Your same radiant light, available to us through relationship with Jesus your Son, transforms our hearts.

God of life-changing moments, we glorify you.

Your divine Holy Spirit tunes our faith in unexpected ways through the transforming radiance of your love. **God of life-changing moments, we glorify you. Amen.**

Lord, whereas it is part of our faith walk to seek and be open to life-changing moments, forgive us when we just plod through life and get despondent with the mundane. We are sorry, Lord.

Shine on us, we pray.

On the other hand, we can at times get fixated on the spiritual mountain-tops and so miss out on what is happening below in the everyday. When things are going well for us, we can get wrapped up in the moment and be forgetful of others. We are sorry, Lord.

Shine on us, we pray.

There are many voices tuned into today's world telling us how to live and what is best. But you, Lord, are our authority in life. Forgive us when we fail to test things against your word.

We are sorry, Lord.

Shine on us, we pray.

Amen.

O God, you have always been with us. Thank you for the times when we have felt close to you. Thank you for guiding our steps. Thank you for being close even when we did not know it. Thank you for the people and places that have helped us to draw close to you. Thank you for each facet of your character that we have glimpsed. **Amen.**



2 Kings 2: 1-12 and Gospel Mark 9: 2-9.

Reflection: The Transfiguration. Wow!

I remember taking our then, seven-year-old son to Disney Land Paris and the first word he exclaimed in utter disbelief was Wow! This was not only a sign of appreciation to us his parents but the enormity of his experience; the big fantasy rides, castles, Disney characters - Oh Micky Mouse House, was just too much for his little mind to handle.

Similarly, the disciples, see Jesus, changed in ways they can only describe by saying that his clothes became brilliantly white – Wow! They see two of the greatest figures – Elijah with Moses two significant prophets in the history of Israel speaking to Jesus as equals – Wow! The disciples too were in utter disbelief and they were also terrified!

Question: What experiences have been most transformative in your life?

My son wished the few days we spent in Disney Land would last forever and that is natural of humanity to want to hold on to good times and good memories for ever. As such, Peter knew he was in great company, in essence, they were in the presence of God. In order to avoid facing the reality of life's challenges, once they descend from the mountain, 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"*. This was the best thing Peter could say because he was in awe and was also terrified.



Question:
wow moment'?

How do you feel about 'coming down the mountain after a

Almost immediately Clouds came down on the mountain this is important because the Jewish tradition linked the cloud to the glory of God (Exodus 40.34). The cloud overshadowed them and from the cloud, God speaks – Wow!

God spoke the same words at Jesus' baptism to Jesus, but this time, God addressed the disciples by affirming who Jesus was to them and is to the world today. God said, "this is my Son, the Beloved; listen to Him".

Question: What would be your reaction if you encounter God today?

The voice of God opened the eyes of the disciples and gave them the words to make sense of what they have seen – this has happened because Jesus really is the Son of God – and they are reassured that they should listen to him.

Question: What is God saying to you today and can you keep it a secret?

As Jesus and his disciples returned to 'real life' at the foot of the mountain, Jesus tells them to 'share this with no one'. This is in keeping with Mark's theme of secrecy – the revelation of Jesus' Messianic identity in the crucifixion.

Finally, in the Old Testament reading, both prophets Elijah and Moses never died, they were lifted into heaven although the scriptures tell only the story of Elijah. Elisha who was Elijah's successor, like the

disciples saw the power of God through vivid image of horses and chariot of fire lift Elijah to heaven. God honour Elijah's prophetic spirit in a deathless manner and affirms Elisha as Elijah's successor.

Beloved, I pray that we have the discernment to embrace our mountain top experiences but not stay there; rather that we may descend to face life's challenges and rely on Jesus Christ – God's beloved Son to deliver us safely. **Amen.**



Hymn 20 StF: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord



God of glory open our eyes and open our hearts. **Help us to see Jesus.**

God of glory change us and renew us by your Spirit. **Make us more like Jesus.** God of glory we see you in the beauty of the universe, we meet you in the love of our friends and families, we find you in our joys and in our pain – faithful and true. We see you revealed to us in

Scripture, we hear you speaking to us in the silence, we know you in our hearts, You are the God who comes close to us: though we are far apart from each other.

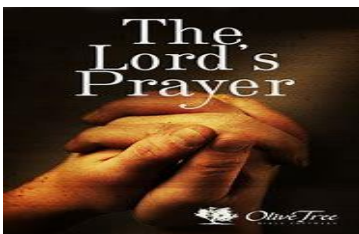
Surround us with the light of your presence. God of glory change us and renew us by your Spirit. **Make us more like Jesus**

God of glory, we remember people in our own communities who are suffering asking that you would lighten the pain and distress of daily life. We ask that you give all medical staff peace as they care for the sick, and peace as many of them wait at the bedside of those who are at the end of life.

We pray especially for relatives of people in care homes – surround them all with your healing presence. We remember people in our own communities who are suffering asking that you would lighten the pain and distress of daily life.

Help us to make our churches sanctuaries of peace and safety. May we be ready to respond to the need of others and to do what we can to tell the story of the love that will never let us go, the love that can change us and the world

Help us to love one another as you have loved us. You are the God who comes close to us: though we are far apart from each other **Surround us with the light of your presence. Amen.**



The Lord's Prayer (for children/AAW)

Our Father in heaven, blessed is 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. Do not let us be tempted and save us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours today and for ever. **Amen.**



Hymn StF 59: Shine Jesus Shine



O God, you have always been with us. Thank you for the times when we have felt close to you. Thank you for guiding our steps. Thank you for being close even when we did not know it. Thank you for the people and places that have helped us to draw close to you. Thank you for each facet of your character that we have glimpsed. **Amen.**