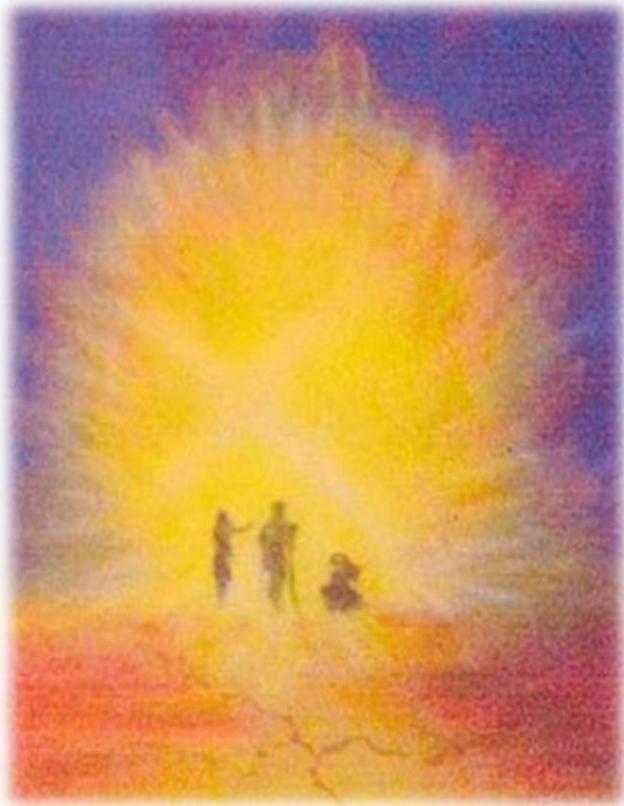


# **'A World Transfigured'**

## **Racial Justice Sunday 2021**

*Morning Worship from St Christopher's*



### **Welcome and a call to worship**

*Led by Revd. Nick Davies*

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

*Informal welcome to the service and welcome to  
Revd. Iain McLaren URC Minister for Cheltenham*

### **HYMN: 'Immortal, Invisible'**

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might,  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains  
of goodness and love.**

**3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish,  
but naught changeth thee.**

**Great God of all glory, great God of all light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

### **Prayers of Confession**

Lord, turn me inside out, so people can see  
the You in me with the same shape heart, the  
same colour of blood and one word in our flesh  
that makes us like You revealing the image of  
God in our coats of many colours. Lord, I love  
from the inside what I see on the outside so may  
we love what we see and be loved for who we  
are: Brothers and sisters, united from inside out  
to turn the world upside down!

*A moment of silent reflection*

Creator God, we have turned our back on sisters  
and brothers differently made in your image  
image:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

God of justice, we have gained through  
selfishness and greed, yesterday and today:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

God revealed on the Mountain top, transform us  
from sin & shame, fill us with your grace & glory:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love bring *us* back to himself,  
forgive *us our* sins, and assure *us* of his eternal  
love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **The Prayer for today**

**God of Moses and Elijah, revealed in burning bush and chariot of fire; you speak to us of justice, your glory escapes our naming: in your mercy, dwell with us and lift us beyond all fear and empty worship; through Jesus Christ, the glory of the father. Amen.**

## **First Reading: 2 Cor 4.3-6**

And 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**

## **HYMN: 'How good Lord...'**

**How good, Lord, to be here!  
Your glory fills the night;  
Your face and garments, like the sun,  
Shine with unborrowed light.**

**How good, Lord, to be here,  
Your beauty to behold  
Where Moses and Elijah stand,  
Your messengers of old.**

**Before we taste of death,  
We see your kingdom come;  
We long to hold the vision bright  
And make this hill our home.**

**How good, Lord, to be here!  
Yet we may not remain;  
But since you bid us leave the mount,  
Come with us to the plain.**

## **Second Reading: Mark 9.2-9**

Six days later, 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.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon**

*Revd. Iain McLaren*

## **HYMN: 'Christian Love'**

*Hymn tune: 'Ode to joy'*

**Christian love is not romantic,  
not soft-focussed, twee or sweet,  
Christian love's not 'likes', nor dating,  
far more real than text or tweet.  
Christian love means life-long struggle;  
lived-out kindness ev'rywhere.  
Christian love must echo Jesus:  
selfless, soulful, steeped in prayer.**

**Christian love respects the other,  
seeks to understand, not judge;  
takes delight in mutual learning  
doesn't force and doesn't fudge.  
Christian love's an arduous journey,  
finding self by giving all;  
serving, sharing, helping, caring;  
full response to Jesus' call.**

Christian love cries out for justice  
wheresoever it's denied;  
joins the struggle, makes the protest,  
stays the course, eyes open wide.  
Christian love rejects what's racist,  
sexist, ageist, prejudiced,  
turns against each nurtured bias,  
learning daily to resist.

Christian love is learned from Jesus,  
walks his way and bears his cross;  
self-surrenders, like our Saviour;  
gains much more than what is lost.  
Christian love is so persistent,  
it outlasts all other things;  
by its hope, its faith, its struggle,  
it's the song all heaven sings!

### Prayers

*Please use this refrain of the prayers*  
Let us pray to the Lord  
Lord, have mercy.

### The Lord's Prayer

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 forever. Amen

### Notices

*Led by Rev. Nick Davies*

### Blessing

May God's grace and love fill the earth and also  
our hearts. May justice flow like a roaring,  
mighty river. May peace descend like a dove  
upon quiet waters and may we be mindful  
always that in God's Kingdom all are loved to  
overflowing. Amen.

### HYMN: 'Shine Jesus shine'

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!*

### Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
In the name of Christ. Amen