

**Christ Church, Ipswich**  
*Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025*  
**Transfiguration Sunday Family Worship**  
*with Holy Communion and welcoming new members*  
 Minister: The Revd Neil Coulson  
 Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger

**Call to worship**

Come and worship the One enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
 the one who defends us, and feeds us with His very self.

**We come to worship and adore.**

Come and worship, pay homage to the One who lifts us up,  
 cleanses our souls, and teaches us deep truths.

**We come to worship and learn.**

Come and worship the One whom angels hail,  
 who gives water from the rock and manna from heaven.

**We come to worship and be changed.**

**A gathering prayer**

Loving Lord, we come into your presence,  
 transfixed by your awesome holiness,  
 and we seek the wisdom to listen to you in prayer;  
 the courage to obey you in living;  
 the willingness to encounter you when you choose to surprise us,  
 and the fortitude to seek you when we need you most. **Amen**

**R&S 380 Christ, whose glory fills the skies**

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
 Christ, the true, the only Light,  
 Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
 triumph o'er the shades of night;  
 Dayspring from on high, be near;  
 Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn  
 unaccompanied by thee;  
 joyless is the day's return,  
 till thy mercy's beams I see,

till they inward light impart,  
 glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine,  
 pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
 fill me, radiancy divine,  
 scatter all my unbelief;  
 more and more thyself display,  
 shining to the perfect day.  
 immortal invisible God

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

**Prayers of Adoration, Confession and Grace**

Eternal One, it is good for us to be here today,  
 to rest in your presence, to see your glory,  
 to find peace and contentment in heart and soul,  
 to be schooled in holiness, and sent out with joy.  
 We worship and adore you!

Risen Lord Jesus,  
 your glory shines around us both comforting and terrifying;  
 comforting with your love, terrifying with your insistent call.  
 Forgive us, good Lord,  
 when the hardness of our hearts has veiled our minds to your message,  
 when we've preferred sin's bondage rather than freedom's grace,  
 when we've swapped truth's openness for shameful underhand ways.  
 Forgive us and give us time to change.

Most Holy Spirit we see your glory in the world around us,  
 from birds' flight to clouds on the hills,  
 from the glory of a town's life, to the quiet streets of a village,  
 from nature's majesty to the innocent love of a child.  
 As a forgiven people seeking to forgive  
 may we be changed from glory to glory,  
 that we may shine with your presence.

O Trinity of love, let the glory we receive enable us to change,  
 and to be agents of transformation in our world. Amen.

### **A prayer of dedication for all our giving**

God's glory is seen most clearly in Jesus who emptied himself of all but love, walked amongst us, taught us, lived and died for us, wakes us and calls us to follow. As we follow, we give of our time, our talents and of our treasure. As we are awakened to the life of the world, we see the need to give to transform places of pain into oases of healing, places of hate in temples of love. So let's give thanks for all the giving that goes on in our church – the selfless giving week after week on the plate, in envelopes or directly to the bank, the fundraising and quiet giving to the foodbank and other charities which make a difference. Let's pray:

May your glory shine in this place O God,  
 not a glory based on power and pomp but on love and service;  
 not a glory which draws attention to itself, but a glory based on giving and sacrifice,  
 not a glory based on wealth and prestige,  
 but on humble gifts and transforming presence.  
 Bless all the gifts we have in this church, O God,  
 that your transforming glory will shine here  
 on those who need love and life. Amen.

### **Old Testament Reading                      Exodus 34:29-35                      (OT page 76)**

#### *The Shining Face of Moses*

<sup>29</sup> Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant<sup>[a]</sup> in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup> When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup> But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup> Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup> When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup> but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup> the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

**Gospel Reading****Luke 9:28-36****(NT page 64)***The Transfiguration*

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

**R&S 38****Thou whose almighty word**

1 Thou whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel-day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light!

2 Thou who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
now to all humankind  
let there be light!

3 Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy dove,  
speed forth thy flight;  
move on the waters' face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light!

4 Holy and blessed Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might,  
boundless as ocean's tide  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide,  
let there be light!

John Marriott (1780-1825).

**Reflection based on today's readings*****A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays for us*****Prayers of Intercession**

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:

**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, we come to you now, recognising that you are the Lord of glory. Your glory is far beyond what we can see or imagine. You are so much greater than anything we can conceive. You are utterly beyond us. And yet, you delight to commune with us, your chosen and beloved people. Thank you for your love. Thank you for listening to us as we turn our thoughts and hearts to prayer. Thank you that you care about each person or situation we pray for. Although you shine in glory, nothing is beyond your loving, caring gaze.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:

**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, may your glory shine on the world. There is so much darkness, fear and pain, we need your light to shine into every corner...

We ask you to send your light into the Middle East, the place where you were transfigured, to transform the sorrow, hatred and fear into love, light, joy and peace.

We continue to pray for Israeli hostages and those who love them awaiting their return. And we pray for

all who have lost their loved ones, their homes, their schools, their livelihoods in Gaza. We pray that those who can see no way out of their dark situation will be astonished by your light.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:

**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, we continue to pray for Europe and the growing unrest after three years of war between Russia and Ukraine. We pray that you will bring your wisdom to the leaders of the nations so that they may all focus on bringing a lasting peace.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:

**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, we bring our town to you. We think of all the places where we have seen your light shine around here this week. We pause to think of all the good news stories we have seen, heard about or read about this week. We thank you for those prayers we have prayed that have been answered....

Lord, as we go out from this place today, may we have been transformed because we have met with you. And may we take that transformation into our places of work and study and our homes. We ask that your glory will shine in our community spaces this week: in our hospitals, our shops, our schools and colleges, the offices, factories, on the buses and trains and in the traffic queues. Help us to bring words of encouragement and hope into every situation we face because we have a hope in you. May our actions reflect your goodness. Lord, may our first thought be kindness as we interact with our families, friends, neighbours, colleagues and anyone else we meet.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:

**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, we pray for those who are hurting or sick or sad. We bring to you all who struggle to see your glory in their current situation. We name all those who are particularly on our hearts now...

Lord, help us to take your light into those difficult and painful places. Give us your compassion and help us to be peace-bringers.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:

**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, if we have been focussed on you this morning, then our faces will shine as we leave your presence today. Maybe someone will ask us why. Give us the courage to talk to our friends and neighbours about the reason for our joy in you. Help us to share your story with all who need to hear it this week.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:

**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

We think about the week ahead, Lord, and wonder what it will bring. We rehearse in our minds the places we expect to go and people we expect to see... help us to shine there for you. But we know that there may be unexpected moments where we are tested and troubled. Help us to shine for you there, too. In our times of celebration, may you be at the centre. Remind us, in our dark times, that you never leave us. Go before us into every situation, shining as a beacon to guide the way ahead.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:

**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

And Lord, bring us back next week to share the story of your glory as we have seen it in our lives and the lives of others. **Amen.**

*The children and Young People return ready for Holy Communion*

**Welcoming new members – Tony Barton, Colin & Dorothy Hammond**

**GG 30 There is a Redeemer**

There is a Redeemer  
 Jesus, God's own Son  
 Precious Lamb of God, Messiah  
 Holy One,

*Thank you, O my Father,  
 for giving us your Son,  
 and leaving your Spirit  
 till the work on Earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer  
 name above all names,  
 precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
 O, for sinners slain.

*Thank you, O my Father...*

When I stand in glory,  
 I will see His face,  
 and there I'll serve my King forever  
 in that holy place.

*Thank you, O my Father...*

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**Holy Communion****Gospel Words**

Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life.  
 Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
 and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.      John 6:35

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;  
 if you hear my voice and open the door,  
 I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.      Revelation 3:20

God proves his love for us in  
 that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.      Romans 5:8

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
 and I will give you rest.  
 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
 for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
 and you will find rest for your souls.  
 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.      Matthew 11:28-30

**Invitation to the Table**

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,  
 not because you are strong, but because you are weak.  
 Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come,  
 but because you need mercy and help.  
 Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more.  
 Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.  
 Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

We pray together:

**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.**

### **The Institution**

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper:  
 For I received from the Lord  
 what I also handed on to you,  
 that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed  
 took a loaf of bread,  
 and when he had given thanks,  
 he broke it and said,  
 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'  
 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,  
 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'  
 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,  
 you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.                      1 Corinthians 11.23–26

### **Thanksgiving**

Loving God,  
 we praise and thank you  
 for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for his life and ministry,  
 announcing the good news of your kingdom  
 and demonstrating its power  
 in the lifting of the downtrodden,  
 and the healing of the sick,  
 and the loving of the loveless.

We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross  
 for the redemption of the world,  
 and for your raising him to life again,  
 as a foretaste of the glory we shall share.

We give you thanks for this bread and wine,  
 symbols of our world  
 and signs of your transforming love.

Send your Holy Spirit, we pray,  
 that we may be renewed  
 into the likeness of Jesus Christ  
 and formed into his Body.

This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

### **The Breaking of Bread**

Jesus said, 'This is my body which is for you;  
 do this in memory of me'.

#### *Sharing the Bread*

Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you  
 and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

### **The Lifting of the Cup**

In the same way,  
 he took the cup after supper, and said:  
 'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.  
 Whenever you drink it,  
 do this in memory of me.' 1 Corinthians 11:25

*Sharing the Wine*

Drink this and remember that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

**Words of Acclamation and Prayer**

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate.

Your resurrection we confess.

Your final coming we await.

Glory be to you, O Christ.

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

**Father of all,**

**we give you thanks and praise,**

**that when we were still far off**

**you met us in your Son and brought us home.**

**Dying and living, he declared your love,**

**gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;**

**we who drink his cup bring life to others;**

**we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**

**so we and all your children shall be free,**

**and the whole earth live to praise your name;**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer, which will be sung today****R&S 67 Immortal, invisible, God only wise**

1 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.

2 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.

4 Great Father of glory: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.  
And so let thy glory, Almighty, impart,  
through Christ in the story, thy Christ to the heart.

Walter Chalmers Smith. (1824-1908)

**A sending out prayer**

Go with us, Lord, and be the light that shines through us.  
As we take your light into the world,  
help us to reflect your love in all we do.  
**Amen.**

**The Blessing**

Go and as you go, know this:  
In grace you were created,  
in mercy you have been sustained  
and in love you will be held forever.

And the blessing of almighty God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and those whom you love,  
this day and always.  
**Amen.**

**The Grace**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all,  
for evermore. Amen.**