



14-20 February 2021 • Faith 24/7

Wow!

Mark 9.2-9

This takes place high on a mountain, where three of Jesus' disciples see Jesus transformed and become 'dazzling white'. They see Moses and Elijah (two Old Testament prophets) talking with Jesus, and they are terrified. A cloud overshadows the disciples, and a voice says, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him.'

Now read **Mark 9.2-9** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

There are lots of stories in the Bible where people encounter God on top of a mountain – Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah... Mountains were seen as closer to God, so much so that even the Temple in Jerusalem was built on top of a hill. As Peter, James and John climbed the mountain with Jesus, then, they may have had some sense of anticipation, but nothing could prepare them for what they were about to experience. These disciples have a vivid experience of the glory of God, so dazzling that they struggle to put it into words. Peter wants the experience to last for ever, but this turns out to be a passing experience and they go back down the mountain having heard God's voice. Have you experienced the glory of God in such an intense or unexpected way?



What experiences have been most transformative in your life?

Brush your teeth

Toothpaste brands often promise to 'dazzle', 'sparkle' or make our teeth 'brilliant white' – the sorts of words the disciples might have used to describe their 'wow' moment on the mountain. Each time you brush your teeth, ask yourself, 'What was my biggest 'wow' moment today?' Say thank you to God for that moment. At the end of the week, you might like to invite a group of friends or family to share their 'wow' moments. After each one, say together, 'Thank you, God.'

Sing

- Listen to the song 'Weird and Wonderful' by Fischy Music (youtu.be/0Fzn2dKPHFM). Each line gives an interesting fact, followed by the exclamation 'Wow! That's amazing!'
- Think of times that you have experienced God's glory, wonder or a 'wow' moment. Can you come up with new lyrics for the song that tell how amazing these times were? (E.g. 'When I was sad, God comforted me. Wow! That's amazing!')
- You could sing your new song as a prayer.



Did you send or receive a Valentine's card this week? How does it feel if you receive something like that if you weren't expecting it? Spend some time thinking about moments in your life that have been unexpected or life changing. Who else was involved? Think of someone who played an important part in your significant moment. Write a letter or make a card to send to them to say thank you. If you made a similar card for God, what would you say?

TRANSFORMATION

The passage from Mark recalls the story of the Transfiguration. This Sunday (14 February) is also Racial Justice Sunday, where the Church calls for transformation and an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice. Find out more about this special Sunday at www.ctbi.org.uk. What small action could you take to be part of this transformation? Reflecting on the importance of racial justice; Thanksgiving for human diversity; Prayer for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice; Action that truly makes a difference; Fundraising for national and local racial justice initiatives.

Mountain Top

Find a local mountain, hill or path that you can climb. Or look at the image and use it to help you imagine a mountain-top experience. Why might people feel close to God in a place like this? Take some time to notice the beauty of God's world around you. What can you see that shows the glory of God?



Lent in lockdown

Dear Friends, the Lent course "For such a time as this" that will be running through Lent. Please let me know during this next week if you would like to take part. The course begins on Wednesday 24th February at 7.30 p.m. If you would like to see a copy, please follow this link:

<https://www.uspg.org.uk/engage/support5/forsuchatime/lent-course-2021/>

In addition to this I will also be circulating copies of a 40-day Lenten retreat put together by the Jesuits in Scotland called "knowing Jesus". There is a daily Bible reading and reflection, with music for those able to access it. Look out for a copy in you Inbox or through your letterbox.



Ash Wednesday is on 17th February this year and marks the beginning of Lent. There will be a Zoom service at 7.30 p.m. for those who wish to join. It is customary for me to mark foreheads with ash, but obviously that cannot happen this year. The ash is made by burning Palm Crosses from the previous year. If you would like to take part in the service please do burn your own cross if you feel comfortable to do so and can do it safely, and use the ash in the service to mark you own forehead. Details of the service will be circulated on Tuesday this coming week.

Ayodeji Malcom Guite (b. 1957) is a poet, priest, academic, and songwriter. In this poem, "Transfiguration," Guite captures the simplicity of the moment. Without fanfare, unlike Christians, we simply see the "Love that dances at the heart of things."

For that one moment, 'in and out of time',
 On that one mountain where all moments meet,
 The daily veil that covers the sublime
 In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
 There were no angels full of eyes and wings
 Just living glory full of truth and grace.
 The Love that dances at the heart of things
 Shone out upon us from a human face
 And to that light the light in us leaped up,
 We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,
 A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope
 Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.
 Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar
 Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.



Daily Readings for week commencing 15 th February 2021		
Monday	Jeremiah 1	John 3: 1-21
Tuesday	Jeremiah 2: 1-13	John 3: 22-end
Wednesday	Daniel 9: 3-6; 17-19	1 Timothy 6: 6-19 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>
Thursday	Jeremiah 2: 14-32	John 4: 1-26
Friday	Jeremiah 3: 6-22	John 4: 27-42
Saturday	Jeremiah 4: 1-18	John 4: 43-end

Pray for those in need...Sally, Zena, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy, Mandy, Hasan and Joyce. ***Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...especially Frederick, John, Lily and Bettie.***