

**St Nicholas Church, Sighthill
Transfiguration Sunday
19 February 2023**



**Flow river flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word
Lord and let there be light**

2. 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
3. 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

CCLI Song # 30426

Approach to God/ Call to worship

Leader: 'Let light shine out of darkness'. Creator God who spoke light into primordial darkness, who 'speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting', we gather to You, Your faithful yet fragile ones.

All: With 'the light of the knowledge of God in the face of Jesus Christ': Give us eyes to see and ears to hear.

Leader: Acknowledging that You dwell beyond our comprehension, worshipped by the universe itself, we thank You for emptying Yourself of glory in the person of Jesus Christ, and through Him illuminating our path back to You.

All: We name Your blessings to us. Recalling that You first loved us: Give us grateful hearts to receive Your blessings

Leader: We confess that the light of the gospel, Your divine image in Christ and His people, is veiled to us when we pursue the empty promises of our idols. Our daily preoccupations obscure the sacred bonds You created between us the church, the one household of God; while our projects of self-advancement cause injury to the body of Christ. We know that we fall short of this calling every day and name in our hearts those ways in which we have sinned in thought, word, deed and in what we have failed to do...

Moment of silence...

Confident in the righteousness of our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ, lift up our heads in the life-giving knowledge of Your forgiveness.

Hymn: Shine, Jesus Shine

1. 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

Chorus

**Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire**

Opening Prayer:

Leader: Lord as we gather here in this place and this time, a place familiar, a time set in our calendars, we thank You that we are here to meet with You afresh.

May this gathering today be a time and space when we find a moment 'in and out of time'. A moment of meeting with You when the daily veil that at times covers our world and our lives is removed and we see Your glory.

Glory revealed in the beauty of the universe You have created, beauty revealed in the community we are part of, beauty revealed to us in Your precious word, most of all, beauty revealed in the love of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Help us again today to come away with You to a quiet place, to meet with You in new ways, ways that help us glimpse how things really are when we truly come into Your presence, when we truly allow Your light to transform us and the whole world.

Leader: Living God, speak to us in the place where we are today. Make Your presence known. Speak to us the words of affirmation, that we may know that we are loved by you. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Living God, speak to us in the place where we are today, even in the face of darkness. Speak into the uncertainty of our times. Reassure us that You hold the future. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Living God, speak to us in the place where we are today. Bring hope for days to come. Speak words of comfort and of healing; words of compassion for those who mourn. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Living God, speak to us in the place where we are today. Speak that we might speak a word for our times. Speak into the future that lies before us. Grant us grace as we seek to live out that future. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Living God, speak to us in the place where we are today. Speak that we might hear again Your voice.

Speak to us on the highest heights, and in the deepest depths. May we know, and be known by, the One whom You love. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Children/ youth address

Bible Reading 1 - Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Bible Reading – Luke 9: 28-36

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKZts1vLxDY>

Reflection

Offerings/ song: How Great is our God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEm9bDwPQP>

Prayers for offerings and intercession

Almighty God, in the face of unspeakable tragedy, the suffering of those in our community, and the destruction and loss of life in Syria and Turkey, we pray what the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 10 - 'Lord, you know the hopes of the helpless. Surely, you will hear their cries and comfort them. You will bring justice to the orphans and the oppressed.

We give thanks that rescue teams have recently pulled people alive from piles of rubble, but we are deeply saddened that more than 43,000 have lost their lives and millions left homeless. Bitter temperatures contribute to the struggle for people to find their loved ones; not to mention, safe shelter, food and clothing amidst the rubble of collapsing buildings and roadways.

We continue to pray for Ukraine as we approach the one-year anniversary of Russia's attack on February 24, 2022. Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring. Lord may your Kingdom come, and Your will be done.

Lord God, we ask for you to be with all in Ukraine and other war-torn areas who are suffering as the crises

around them deteriorate. Lord for those who are anxious and fearful. For those who are bereaved, injured or who have lost their lives. And for those who have lost loved ones. Lord hear our prayers.

Heavenly Father, working through human events to show your presence and strength, work through each of us as we seek to respond to your call to serve.

Almighty God, shine in our lives like you do in the universe, maintaining life, order, balance and forever making new creations. Mend us as needed, bend us as necessary, that we may be your new creation, in body, mind and spirit.

Holy Spirit, put your seal upon us that we may be filled with zeal for God's work through us as his agents of reconciliation.

Lord Jesus Christ, when we do not know what to do when we are overwhelmed by God's intervention in our lives, give us the wisdom to listen, to marvel, and to renew our commitment to follow you all the days of our lives.

Transfigure your world as you transfigure your church, Lord God, that all may be made new and whole. We pray for all who have needs beyond our power to meet, knowing that you, alone, are the Great Physician. Light of the world, shine upon us. Amen.

Closing hymn: How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear
It soothes his sorrows heals his wounds
And drives away his fear
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the troubled breast
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary rest
3. Dear name the rock on which I build
My shield and hiding place
My never-failing treasury
Filled with boundless stores of grace
4. Jesus my shepherd brother friend
My Prophet Priest and King
My Lord my life my way my end
Accept the praise I bring

CCLI Song # 42940

Final blessing

May the light of Your glory illuminate our path this day and every day, showing us the truth of Your presence, amid the lies of the unjust kingdoms of this world. Turning to the tasks You have prepared for us, And the people You have set us among: Make our feet sure and fleet, the bearers of good news. Amen

May the grace...