

Welcome / Announcements / Land Acknowledgement

□ *Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary (repeat)*

Call to Worship

Lord Jesus, on this day when you revealed your glory to your disciples;

Reveal your glory to us.

As we gaze on the splendour of your love;

Help us to love you and our neighbours around us.

Emmanuel, Everlasting God, Prince of Peace

We worship you today, with all our hearts and our minds. Amen

Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

Creator God, the one who at the beginning said, *“let there be light”* and there was light: shine the light of your grace, love and mercy on us, as we gather for worship today. Show us who you are and how we can become more like you.

God of all nations, creeds, and peoples, in you all the nations of the world find an equal place of love and security. In your son Jesus Christ, we all receive redemption from our sins and the promise of eternal life. His life also provides us with the perfect example of how we should love and care for each other, regardless of our backgrounds, race, or ethnicity. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and he invites us to lay aside the instruments of war and to live in peace with each other.

On this Transfiguration Sunday, help us to see you in all your glory, the Word made flesh and may this glory, through the Holy Spirit, transform our lives. In a world filled with hate, and injustice, inspire us to build the tabernacles of justice, peace and love, until the earth is full of your glory, as the waters cover the seas.

Forgiving God, you call us to love each other regardless of our race, colour or creed, but we confess that we find it easier to hate those who do not look like us, share our religion, or our values. We silently participate in unequal systems that are structured to negatively impact some groups of people, and benefit others on the basis of race prejudice.

You call us your church to be one – neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female. But we admit that your church is marked by elements of hate and divisions. Forgive us and remove things that cause us to hate and distrust each other. Help us to follow the example of Jesus’ love, mercy and compassion. Make us instruments of your love and peace in our world. Amen

[Hear the good news: Christ died for our sins and rose again that God may free us from the tyranny of judging others to live fully in the power of God's grace. In the name of](#)

Jesus Christ, God forgives your sins and offers you a transformed future. Live fully into God's grace. Amen

□ *When Israel was in Egypt's land*

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Prayer for Understanding

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our minds that we may perceive the wonders of your word and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom. Amen

Scripture **2 Kings 2: 1-12** [OT 332]

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, *"Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel."*

But Elisha said, *"As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."*

So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, *"Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?"*

And he said, *"Yes, I know; keep silent."*

Elijah said to him, *"Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho."*

But he said, *"As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."*

So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, *"Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?"*

And he answered, *"Yes, I know; be silent."*

Then Elijah said to him, *"Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan."*

But he said, *"As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."*

So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, *"Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you."*

Elisha said, *"Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."*

He responded, *"You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."*

As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, *"Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"* But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50: 1-6 [responsive / displayed]

The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Our God comes and does not keep silence, before whom is a devouring fire, around whom is a raging storm.

God calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that the people may be judged: *"Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"*

The heavens declare God's righteousness, for God alone is judge.

Mark 9: 2-9 [NT 44]

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.**

Message

Offering and Prayer

Every good thing is a gift from God – the food we eat, the things we have, the time we spend, our whole lives. We give our lives back to God as a way of saying thank you – sharing money with those who are in need, giving food to those who are hungry, and spending our time to help others.

□ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

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**God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you. Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us,
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

† Pastoral Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come; we bow before you in prayer with thankful hearts. You are merciful and gracious. You hear our cries and so we come boldly and confidently – thank you for continuing to reveal yourself to us, giving us direction as to how we should live with each other. There is much trouble in our world, so we bring our concerns to you, especially the plight of the Black community. God of justice, hear our prayers.

Attentive God, the people of African descent who reside in North America, the Caribbean and other places around the world have suffered much. They were forced to endure savage uprooting from their homes in Africa, trauma of the Atlantic slave trade and hundreds of years in slavery. The abolition of slavery did not remove many of the structures of that period of bondage that have remained in place to the present time. We seek your mercies. God of justice, hear our prayers.

Creative God, we celebrate the achievements of our siblings around the world, those who have excelled in music and entertainment, science, business, politics and other areas of community development. We thank you for your continued presence, blessings, inspiration and guidance. God of justice, hear our prayers.

Universal God, we pray for peoples and nations around the world who struggle to survive from day to day. We bring to you those who grapple with a lack of options, inequality and injustice, wars, crime and violence, inadequate health care, and potable water. We pray for those who are sick, shut-in, lonely and depressed. May the light of your presence shine, bringing hope and peace to all. God of justice, hear our prayers.

Holy One, we pray for your church, the body of Christ in the world. We pray for Christians in countries where the gospel is forced to remain underground. We pray for all denominations and groups that represent your kingdom on earth. Bless each leader and follower alike. Unite us in witness and in service as we confront the many

challenges we face. Make us instruments of your peace, people committed to being your light in a dark world. God of justice, hear our prayers as we boldly join our voices... ***Our Father, who art in heaven – hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come – thy will be done – on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen***

□ ***Make me a channel of your peace***

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Blessing

May God's arms enfold and protect you. May God's word inform and inspire you. May God's love infuse and transform you. May God's Spirit flow and empower you now and always. *The Lord bless you and keep you – the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you – the Lord's face toward you and give you peace. Amen*

□ ***Send me, Lord / Thuma mina***

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