

**Sunday Worship on February 15, 2026**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Dr. Robert Revington, PhD.)

**We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to worship
- Praise song BOP 298 Glory be to God the Father (Vs. 1-3)
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 773 Jesus bids us shine (Vs. 1-3)
- Prayer for children

**We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Exodus 24:12-18
- Second reading: Psalm 99 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Matthew 7:1-9
- Sermon: **Light for the way down**
- Praise song BOP 574 With the Lord as m guide (Vs. 1-4)
- Prayer for people

**We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 376 Lord the light of your love is shining (Vs. 1-3)

**We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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**Responsive Call to Worship**

The God of glory rules over the earth in majesty and mystery.

**We praise God's holy name!**

The Spirit of God empowers us to do justice and calls us together in equity.

**We come to honour God's purposes with love and loyalty.**

The Christ of glory shines in this place.

**We praise God's holy name!**

**Praise song – BOP 298 Glory be to God the Father (Vs. 1-3)**

**Prayer of Adoration**

God of grace and wonder, you are the light of the minds that know you, you are the life of the souls that love you and you are the strength of those who serve you.

In you, we have our beginning and our end.

In you, we find our life's purpose.

We come to worship you, we come to marvel in your goodness and seek your truth, as we offer all praise and honour to you, with Christ and the Holy Spirit, One God, mighty and merciful, now and always.

**Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**God of mystery and mercy, we confess that we sometimes mistake our own desires for your will. We are too often distracted by our own desires and disappointments and we cling to fantasies and false promises.**

**We fear for the future rather than seeking signs of hope and we preserve what is, rather than work for what you desire to be.**

**Forgive who we have been, amend who we are and direct who we shall be.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us:** (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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, while it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. God offers us mercy and newness of life this day,  
so be at peace with God, be at peace with yourself and be at peace with one another.

**May the Peace of Christ be with you.** *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

**Praise song BOP BOP 773 Jesus bids us shine (Vs. 1-3)**

**Prayer for the children**

**Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)**

- First reading: Exodus 24:12-18
- Second reading: Psalm 99 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Matthew 17:1-9

**"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."**

**Sermon: Light for the way down**

Sisters and brother in Christ, usually, something special happens without warning. The disciples did not wake up that morning expecting glory. They were not ready for revelation. They were simply following Jesus step by step, as their usual routine for some time.

On that day, Jesus led them up a high mountain.

The Gospel of Matthew does not tell us why this mountain, or why this moment. It only tells us that Jesus chose Peter, James, and John, and brought them with him.

They did not choose Jesus, but Jesus chose them.

This is the grace. We focus on the fact that we were chosen, not the reason why. We don't understand why we are invited.

Jesus loved us and he chose us. And this is the grace we have received.

On the mountain, everything changes.

Jesus' face shines like the sun. His clothes become dazzling white.

This is not borrowed light. This is not reflected light.

This is glory breaking through.

The disciples are not watching Jesus become something new.

They are seeing who he truly is. For a moment, the veil is lifted.

Then Moses and Elijah appear. The great figures of Israel's story.

The Law and the Prophets stand there, alive, and attentive.

But, please notice this. They do not speak to the crowd. They do not claim authority. They stand with Jesus, and then they fade from view.

In all its beauty and depth, the Bible has one centre.

Not Moses. Not Elijah, but Jesus Christ.

Peter speaks up, overwhelmed and sincere.

**V4, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."**

He is right. It is good.

Who would not want to stay in a place like this?

No suffering. No crowds. No confusion. And no cross.

There were just light, just certainty, just glory. It was just beautiful.

But before even Peter can finish his plan, the cloud descends.

And a voice speaks from heaven. **V5, "This is my Son, the Beloved with him I am well pleased; listen to him."**

This is the focal point of today's story.

God does not explain everything.

God does not answer all their questions.

God gives one clear command.

### **LISTEN TO HIM.**

We are not to focus on our emotions. Joy or fear.

We are not to listen to our plans.

We are not even to follow our desires to stay where it feels safe and comfortable.

### **WE ARE TO LISTEN TO JESUS.**

At the sound of God's voice, the disciples fall to the ground in fear. That is what holiness does. It reminds us that God is God and we are not.

When I prepared a children's story, I once told them this.

**"God is BIG, and we are small."**

I only told them this. They laughed so much for my action, but I still think this was a great message.

God is God and we are not.

Every day, I take pictures of one place. **<<PIC>>** This is my parking spot back of my house.

When I noticed the beauty of this place, it was fascinated by it. It was near the time of sunset.

The beauty of the pink sky. At night, the dark blue and some stars or satellites. But, still, I stand in awe of God's beauty. Whenever I go to my car, in snow, in rain, at night, in the morning, in the afternoon, in the sun, under the moon..

It's the same spot, but different view, but all beautiful.

God is big, I am small.

So, in awe, in fear before the glory of God, the disciples didn't know what to do with the weight of God's glory.

At this moment, when they were helpless, Jesus does not leave them alone. He comes close. He touches them.

Jesus says, **V7, "Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."**

This glory of God revealed to us today is the same grace that restores sinners. When the disciples lift their eyes, they finally realize that Moses and Elijah are gone.

The cloud has lifted. **V8, “When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.”**

That is not disappointment. This is relief.

And that is clarity.

Faith matures not when we see more, but when we see what we really need to see. We grow when we clearly see Jesus Christ.

This growth brings us something we sometimes forget.

**Jesus leads them back down the mountain.**

The light fades. The road returns.

And waiting below is misunderstanding, suffering, and eventually the cross.

Jesus does not give them this vision to escape the world.

He gives it to prepare them to walk through it.

**The Transfiguration of Jesus is not a detour, but preparation.**

God gives them light, not to stay above the pain, but to carry hope into it.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, precious people of God, most of our lives are lived on the way down.

We come to worship. We sing. We pray. We hear God’s word. We experience the glory of God.

**And then Monday comes.**

We return to our ordinary routines.

Unresolved conflict.

Medical appointments.

Financial pressures.

Quiet disappointments that no one else understands.

God does not promise that the valley will disappear.

**But he promises that we will not walk through without light.**

The light may not show us the whole road. But it’s enough for the next step.

**Psalms 119:105, “your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”**

Not a spotlight showing the whole path, but a lamp showing the next step or two.

Jesus does not tell the disciples to explain the vision. He tells them to wait because glory without the cross is easily misunderstood.

**V 9, “As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”**

Only after the resurrection, they will be able to understand what they saw on the mountain.

The same Jesus who shone in glory will hang on a cross. The same face that gleamed like the sun will be bruised and broken.

And yet, it is the same Lord.

**The light of the mountain and the darkness of the cross belong to the same story. <<PIC>>**

And this is important for us today because this week, we begin the season of Lent. This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. We move from the mountain of glory toward the road of repentance, prayer, and the cross.

We do not stay in the bright cloud. We walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem, to the cross.

Lent is not a sad interruption of faith. It is a focused journey of faith. It is the season when we listen more carefully, repent more honestly, pray more deeply, and follow more closely.

We receive ashes not to feel guilty, but to remember what is true.

We are dust, and our hope is mercy.

We are weak, and our hope is Christ alone.

The light we saw on the mountain is the light that leads us into Lent.

Not with fear, but with clarity.

Not with despair, but with purpose.

Today, Christ does not promise us a life without falling.

But he promises his presence on the way down.

All the way to the cross, through the cross, and to resurrection.

So, listen to him.

Trust him and follow him.

The light you have been given is enough.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

**Let us pray.**

Gracious Lord, thank you for the light you give us.

Not light to impress us, but light to guide us.

As we walk back into our daily lives, help us listen to your Son, trust his way, and follow him without fear. Hold our hands, and be with us.

In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Praise song BOP Praise song BOP 574 With the Lord as my guide (Vs. 1-4)**

**Prayer for the people:**

God of love and grace, you know the valleys we are walking through. You know our silent agonies. We rely upon your loving arms. Listen to our prayers and grant us our prayers in your time.

We pray for those who are tired, who feel overwhelmed, and who are carrying burdens that feels too heavy.

Give them light for the way down.

We pray for those who are grieving, those facing illness, those waiting for answers that have not yet come.

Especially, please remember Tumbler Ridge in B.C..

The sadness, anger, confusion, and emptiness.

Please be near to them. Please let them know that you are crying with them together. Let your voice be heard and let your mercy be poured out upon them and let your peace surround them.

Let us pray for the families who lost their loved ones for two minutes.

<< - 2 minute prayer - >>

We pray for our families, our communities, and our world.

In darkness, shine your light.

In fear, pour out your courage because you are with us.

In division, fill them with your peace.

Teach us listen to Jesus, to trust him, and to follow him.

God, listen to our prayers and draw us close to you.

In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:**

God gives us light and invites us to share the light.

As we bring our offerings, we respond with gratitude for grace received and for hope was given.

Let us give, not to stay on the mountain, but to serve faithfully in the world God loves.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify God.  
(BOP #830, *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*)

**Offering prayer:**

Gracious God, all that we have comes from you. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust and gratitude. Use them to bring light where there is darkness, hope where there is need, and love where there is fear.

We offer them in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 376 Lord the light of the love is shining (Vs. 1-3)**

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

We do not remain on the mountain. We do not walk alone.

Jesus who shone in glory now walks beside us in our daily lives.

As we leave this place, may his light guide your steps, his voice steady your heart, and his presence give you courage for the way down.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.