

Night Prayer

August 2021

The Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6)

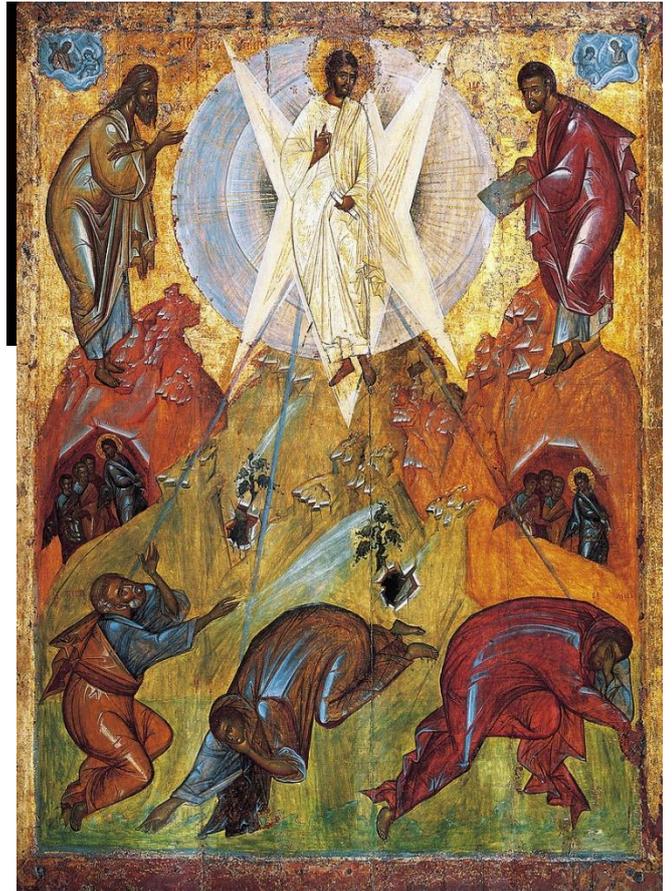
Introduction

The liturgical elements of our service this evening are from 'Liturgies from Lindisfarne'.

These night prayer services are designed to be used as often as you wish during the relevant season.

The Feast of the Transfiguration was declared to be a universal feast throughout the Western church by Pope Callixtus III on August 6 1456 to celebrate the defeat of the Ottoman Turks at Belgrade which effectively delayed the Ottoman advance into Europe for many years.

August 6 is also the date the world's first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. We are able to recall the transfiguration of Christ before his death, but also pray for the transfiguration of the scarred creation.



Transfiguration. 15th century icon by Theophanes the Greek

Opening

O Tender Light of the Holy and Heavenly Trinity,
open our eyes and we shall see your glory,
open our minds and we shall know your ways,
open our lives and we shall show your presence,
open our lips and we shall tell your praise.

Singing

You might like to listen to: 'Let us with a gladsome mind'. This hymn was written by John Milton in 1623, and is a poetic paraphrase of Psalm 136.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG6kS1o5PpA>

A candle or incense may be lit.

Reading

Old Testament 2 Chronicles 5:11–14

¹¹The priests then withdrew from the Holy Place. All the priests who were there had consecrated themselves, regardless of their divisions. ¹²All the Levites who were musicians—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives—stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets. ¹³The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang:

“He is good;

his love endures forever.”

Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud, ¹⁴and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

We pray

‘Light up for us your presence’

Almighty God, Creator,
greyness has enveloped our world;
as we lift our hearts to you,
may your glory make things clear.

Almighty God, Creator,
you seem absent from your world;
light up for us your presence
in all we meet and touch.

Almighty God, Creator, veiled by cloud and storm;
shine through our trivial tasks,
make them signals of your love.

Reading

Luke 9: 28-36

The Transfiguration

²⁸About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. ³¹They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem. ³²Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

³⁴ While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

Silence or music.

If you would like some music, visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaTwx0ehbvM>

for 'Lord, the light of your love is shining', one of Graham Kendrick's many great hymns. Words are on the screen.

Transfigure this earth

Your kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven.

Transfigure this earth.

May flowers bloom on it.

Transfigure this earth.

May peace reign on it.

Transfigure this earth.

May people and creatures be friends on it.

Transfigure this earth.

May our bodies be changed into bodies of resurrection.

Transfigure this earth.

Intercessions

Make us aware, dear God,
of the eye that beholds us,
the hand that holds us,
the heart that loves us,
the Presence that transforms us.

Jesus, you took your friends to be alongside you.
Be close to us today.
Father, you strengthened your Son for his coming trial.
Strengthen us today.
Spirit, your glory transfigured them like a cloud.
Transfigure us today.

Saviour, you led the disciples down to serve a suffering world.
Have mercy on our suffering world.

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches
of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives

make known your heavenly glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You may wish to name examples of suffering in the world.

We pray that into blighted places you will bring communities of light . . .

We pray that into disheartened believers you will reveal the Resurrection . . .

We pray that into those disfigured by nuclear blast you will bring healing . . .

We pray that into a groaning creation you will bring redemption . . .

We remember that on this day the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima; we pray for those who died and those who are still in pain.

Closing

We remember Moses and Elijah, witnesses of life triumphant over death and we pray for the faithful departed.

Benediction

May God now send us back down the mountain of our worship.

We have been changed.

We can't be silent anymore.

We have seen the Light of the World.

Go and share the radiance of love!

