

## Transfiguration - Leaders Guide

A creative reflection on the transfiguration of Jesus.

This service was originally created for St James's Piccadilly, London UK, monthly 'Creative Spirit' service, in August 2018 by artist Amy Diana Poole.

The majority of my services also have an adapted version without religious affiliation, however as this service specifically looks at the Transfiguration of Jesus that was not possible on this occasion.

The service is structured with an opening reading, four image stations around the space and a closing reading. I would also recommend having some-kind of background music during the reflection period around the stations.

Here are links to images that can be used for each station

The Mountain, where humanity meets God <https://pin.it/bl4ronwggwmndbx>

Divine glory, light of God <https://pin.it/m4ooy6rg5wqugk>

Voice of God <https://pin.it/fy63g34gzifmso>

Anticipation, of the resurrection, or what is to come <https://pin.it/2mtvzqu52rka5k>

Suggested playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/18YB0B3c0rZy1GNacbWZ9h?si=igtVRE8ZQaeUxGGqWojmAw>

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## **Introduction to be read by the leader:** 5 mins

On the eve of the Transfiguration we gather to immerse ourselves in the famous story of mystical encounter and to consider its meaning for our lives today.

'The sublime' refers to a greatness beyond all possibility of calculation, measurement, or imitation. It is the sensation, when situated within nature of such enormity, beauty and awe, you are at the same time confronted with an overwhelming sense of mortality and our insignificance in the universe.

This feeling is akin to that of meeting God, of being immersed in the presence of an unknowable power.

To reflect on the Transfiguration, there are four meditation stations around the church, take your time to read the instructions, reflect on the images and immerse yourself in God's presence.

## **1. Reading from Matthew** 5 mins

Matthew 17

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

10 The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

11 Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. 12 But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything

they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” 13 Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

## **2. Stations around the church.** 30 mins

Using the images found in the links, or those of your own choice, create 4 stations around the space.

The four stations represent:

1. The Mountain, where humanity meets God
2. Divine glory, light of God
3. Voice of God
4. Anticipation, of the resurrection, or what is to come

Print the texts, which can be found on the last two pages of this pack, to accompany the matching stations.

## **2. Closing reading to be read by the leader.**

### **An Autumn Leaf by Immanuel Joseph**

Yesterday, I was the mist of the waterfall  
Tomorrow I will be a raindrop  
Racing toward my destiny  
But today  
I am the cloud  
Floating amidst the mountain peaks  
The hangman's noose is empty  
For I am life  
I cannot be destroyed  
The winds of adversity  
Buffet and mould me  
Yet I float free  
I am freedom  
The bird that flits happily  
Among olive trees  
I am the wind of the evergreen glades  
I am boundless  
Without secrets, without fear  
I am love  
The red ferns on mossy grass  
I am Now  
This hour, eternity  
I know no beginning or end  
I cannot be destroyed.

## **The Mountain, where humanity meets God**

*Luke 9: About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.*

Imagine yourself on a mountain top. You are consumed by a roaring wind.

In front of you are clouds, a never ending sky, and the resemblance of a world that you know below, of flowing streams, fields and stone.

Imagine yourself in this place.

Think about your humanity, our fragility.

See yourself standing above this landscape, feel the wind, smell the air.

Sense the inconceivable expanse, the world stretching below your feet.

God is here.

## **Divine glory, light of God**

*Matthew 17: 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.*

Feel the light consume you,

From sunlight on a summer day, hot and bright. Surrounding you in a beam of warmth.

To moonlight on a still, but cold evening. Crisp and luminous.

Or lightning in an electrical storm sharp, powerful and awe-inspiring.

Light brings life into the world, brings life into us, like a sunflower tracing its steps across the sky, we drink it in, marvel at it, take comfort in it.

Sit in the light, or look at it from the shade.

This is the presence of God

## **Voice of God**

*Matthew 17: While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"*

What does the voice of God sound like?

Like thunder from the sky, that shakes the earth, cracks storms and vibrates through us?

Is it a roaring wind that sweeps us up, whistling through our ears, taking our breath away?

Or is it a whisper, from inside our hearts, written on the faces of strangers, held in the hands of children?

Or maybe it's a song, like the bird of the morning, the lapping of sea waves, the rustling of tree leaves?

Listen. Hear the voice of God.

## **Anticipation, of the resurrection, or what is to come**

*Matthew 17: As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."*

We spend so much time waiting, In queues at the supermarket, for results from the doctor, for change from our politicians.

Some of us are impatient, tapping our feet, flicking through our phones, looking ahead in agitation for a sign of moving forward.

Some of us can be patient, sitting calmly, quietly, maybe with a whistle in our head and heart. What will come, will come.

But are any of us prepared for what is to come? Can any of us truly force the enormity of God's kingdom?

Like a child on Christmas eve, or a loved one at airport arrivals, we must wait in anticipation for what is to come.

Wait for the unimaginable love and enormity of what is to come.