

# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Welcome to our Family Service Led by Nigel Lowe

### Welcome & Notices

[Click here for more information about LIVE LENT Lunchtimes](#)

### As we gather ... take a look at this picture

- How well does it illustrate your experience of 'wow' moments?
- What experiences have been most transformative in your life?
- How do you feel about 'coming back down the mountain' after a 'wow' moment?



### Opening Prayer

The Lord, the mighty one, summons his people to approach.  
Come, let us tune into his radiance,  
allowing his light of glory to shine upon and within us,  
as we offer our worship and praise.  
Amen.

## Song

## “O Praise the Name (Anastasis)”

I cast my mind to Calvary  
Where Jesus bled and died for me.  
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet.  
My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears  
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone  
Messiah still and all alone

O praise the name of the Lord our God  
O praise His name forever more  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

And then on the third at break of dawn,  
The Son of heaven rose again.  
O trampled death where is your sting?  
The angels roar for Christ the King

O praise the name of the Lord our God  
O praise His name forever more  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

He shall return in robes of white,  
The blazing Son shall pierce the night.  
And I will rise among the saints,  
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

O praise the name of the Lord our God  
O praise His name forever more  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Martin W. Sampson / Benjamin William Hastings / Dean Ussher

O Praise The Name (Anástasis) Lyrics © Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

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## Confession

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:  
Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever.  
Amen.

**Reading** Mark 9:2-9 read today by Kate Holliday

2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. 4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' 6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) 7 Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!' 8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

**Sermon** by Assistant Archdeacon Chris Bull  
used with permission by the Diocese of Oxford.

## Creed

We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

cf Hosea 6

## Songs

### “Be still, for the presence of the Lord”

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
The holy One, is here;  
Come bow before him now  
With reverence and fear  
In him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
The holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire,  
With splendour he is crowned:  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant king of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place:  
He comes to cleanse and heal,  
To minister his grace -  
No work too hard for him.  
In faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place.

Lyric Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: David Evans Be Still lyrics © Thank You Music Ltd.

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### “Before the throne of God above”

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest, whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me

My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heaven He stands

No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look, and see Him there  
who made an end to all my sin

Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
upward I look, and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin

Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the Risen Lamb  
My perfect, spotless righteousness  
The great unchangeable I am  
The King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ, my Savior and my God

Recorded by Seth Price, Logan Williams and Tim Packer for lockdown evening worship at St Nics Church, Durham, 20 September 2020. Mix and video by Tim Packer. Before The Throne Of God Above by Charitie Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook copyright 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship. Used with kind permission.

**Intercessions**            led by Debs Whittaker

Response: . Let us walk ~ **In the light of the Lord**

### 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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

### Song "King of kings, Majesty"

King of kings, Majesty  
God of Heaven living in me  
Gentle Saviour, closest friend  
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end  
All within me falls at Your throne

#### Chorus

Your Majesty, I can but bow  
I lay my all before You now  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve Your Majesty

Earth and Heaven worship You  
Love eternal, Faithful and True  
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls  
Brought this sinner near to Your throne  
All within me cries out in praise.

#### Chorus x2

Lyric Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Jarrod Cooper

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### Final Prayer

Lord Jesus, raise our expectations of what it means to encounter God  
not just in this place but in every place, in all the places we shall be in the days ahead.  
Help us every day to discover something new about God's ways, about what God wants  
of us – and change the way we see the world, and the way we act.  
Amen.

**Bonus Song** “The Blessing – UK” created by a multitude of UK churches. Click on this link to watch and listen on Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtlI3mNj5U>  
If you have a way of linking up to a good sound system, let it surround you! You’ll find the lyrics below the video if you’d like to join in.

**Thank you for joining us today**



## Wow!

### Mark 9.2-9

This takes place high on a mountain, where three of Jesus' disciples see Jesus transformed and become 'dazzling white'. They see Moses and Elijah (two Old Testament prophets) talking with Jesus, and they are terrified. A cloud overshadows the disciples, and a voice says, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him.'

Now read **Mark 9.2-9** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

There are lots of stories in the Bible where people encounter God on top of a mountain – Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah... Mountains were seen as closer to God, so much so that even the Temple in Jerusalem was built on top of a hill. As Peter, James and John climbed the mountain with Jesus, then, they may have had some sense of anticipation, but nothing could prepare them for what they were about to experience. These disciples have a vivid experience of the glory of God, so dazzling that they struggle to put it into words. Peter wants the experience to last for ever, but this turns out to be a passing experience and they go back down the mountain having heard God's voice. Have you experienced the glory of God in such an intense or unexpected way?



What experiences have been most transformative in your life?

## Brush your teeth



Toothpaste brands often promise to 'dazzle', 'sparkle' or make our teeth 'brilliant white' – the sorts of words the disciples might have used to describe their 'wow' moment on the mountain. Each time you brush your teeth, ask yourself, 'What was my biggest 'wow' moment today?' Say thank you to God for that moment. At the end of the week, you might like to invite a group of friends or family to share their 'wow' moments. After each one, say together, 'Thank you, God.'

## Sing

- Listen to the song 'Weird and Wonderful' by Fischy Music ([youtu.be/0Fzn2dKPHFM](https://youtu.be/0Fzn2dKPHFM)). Each line gives an interesting fact, followed by the exclamation 'Wow! That's amazing!'
- Think of times that you have experienced God's glory, wonder or a 'wow' moment. Can you come up with new lyrics for the song that tell how amazing these times were? (E.g. 'When I was sad, God comforted me. Wow! That's amazing!')
- You could sing your new song as a prayer.



Did you send or receive a Valentine's card this week? How does it feel if you receive something like that if you weren't expecting it? Spend some time thinking about moments in your life that have been unexpected or life changing. Who else was involved? Think of someone who played an important part in your significant moment. Write a letter or make a card to send to them to say thank you. If you made a similar card for God, what would you say?

# TRANSFORMATION

The passage from Mark recalls the story of the Transfiguration. This Sunday (14 February) is also Racial Justice Sunday, where the Church calls for transformation and an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice. Find out more about this special Sunday at [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk). What small action could you take to be part of this transformation? Reflecting on the importance of racial justice; Thanksgiving for human diversity; Prayer for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice; Action that truly makes a difference; Fundraising for national and local racial justice initiatives.

## Mountain Top

Find a local mountain, hill or path that you can climb. Or look at the image and use it to help you imagine a mountain-top experience. Why might people feel close to God in a place like this? Take some time to notice the beauty of God's world around you. What can you see that shows the glory of God?



## Mark 9.2-9



**Write**

A blank, cream-colored envelope with a red and blue striped border. It features a white rectangular area in the top left corner for an address, four vertical lines for a return address, and a horizontal line for a message.



**Puzzle**

Jesus was transfigured.

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He was chafed.

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