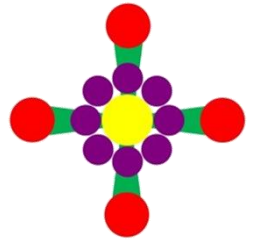


**The Benefice of  
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme  
15th February 2026  
Transfiguration  
Todays Liturgy Prepared by Alison**



**Preparation**

**Call to Worship**

God of majesty and might,  
You have blessed us with the revelation of your glory.  
Give us the gift of faith,  
That we may hear your voice for ourselves this day  
And see Jesus Christ revealed to us  
That we may stand on our own without fear  
And worship you now with everlasting praise.  
**Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

When Christ appears we shall be like him,  
because we shall see him as he is.  
As he is pure,  
all who have grasped this hope make themselves pure.  
So let us confess our sins that mar his image in us.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Glorious God,  
You are all wisdom  
And a lamp unto our feet,  
Yet we fail to listen to you  
And neglect to follow your guiding light.  
Forgive us and heal us,  
And lead us on,  
That we may walk in your ways  
And be happy in your refuge;  
In Jesus Christ we pray.  
Amen.

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

The good news of our faith is this:  
If we call upon God we will be answered and forgiven.  
That promise gives us peace and joy.  
The Lord Almighty forgive us our sins and  
Lead us into everlasting light.  
Amen

## **The Collect**

Father in heaven,  
whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured  
before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain,  
and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem:  
give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross  
that in the world to come we may see him as he is;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### The First Reading: Exodus 24:12-end

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.”

Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. He said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them.”

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

### The Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

The Transfiguration

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

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!”

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

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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Reflection by Liz

On several days in the past few weeks, we have had thick mist or fog, and visibility has been very poor. As I have driven over the higher roads to our different parishes, it has been quite tricky at times to see very far in front of me, and I have really had to concentrate as I have negotiated the narrow lane leading up to The Guide cross roads. Even looking out of the windows at home it has been difficult to see down the valley on some days. But then when the sun breaks through and it all becomes much brighter, the difference is amazing. Maybe its because I appreciate it so much more after the gloom of those misty days or maybe it is because I notice the beauty of the countryside because my senses are reawakened to the natural world after that period of shade and shadows. Whatever the reason, the brighter days seem to transform the views and the landscape.

Certainly, having witnessed the mist so much recently, it did help me to picture the scene of Moses on the mountaintop as the cloud covered the mountain more vividly. We can only imagine the difficulty for those in the area to see Moses as he was enveloped by the cloud, possibly wondering where he was, what was happening to him. Yet for Moses the experience would have been quite different. As he was surrounded by the cloud, he would still be aware of what was happening to him and of his immediate surroundings. Maybe his other senses were heightened as it was more difficult to see – and as we read later, he was most acutely aware of being in God’s presence. Later, the writers tried to describe what had happened – but only Moses would have truly known about his own encounter with God and sometimes words are inadequate for expressing the sights and emotions of such a special time.

Our second reading also describes an encounter with God, this time for Jesus and it was witnessed by three of his disciples.

Although this also occurred on a mountainside, the description is quite different, but again we sense that for the writer, it is difficult to capture the awesomeness of the encounter. In both encounters, we are made aware that the appearance of those who have encountered God and have spent some time in his presence has been transformed. They have been changed by the encounter -and the light and love of God is reflected in their appearance.

I expect that like me, many of you will know people who also seem to reflect God's light and love in their lives – in the way they speak, act or look as they interact with others. It can be a gift to spend time with them. But as we get to know them, it becomes evident that the reflection of God's love in their lives is a result of them spending time with God themselves, either through reading Scripture or through prayer time or just choosing to spend quiet time focusing on God. For some, it may mean going to a special place – even climbing a mountain – or another place where they feel closer to God, such as in church, in the garden or the outdoors, or a special corner of their home. But they take time to be with God and by so doing, they are blessed and become a blessing for those around them.

This coming week will see the beginning of Lent, that season of reflection and preparation for Easter. Maybe this could be the time when we spend more time with God. May we find that it becomes a time of transformation for us as our relationship with our loving Lord deepens and then becomes a blessing for those around us.

### **Affirmation of Faith**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray to the God who reveals his glory on the holy mountain and who walks with us in the valleys of daily life.

Holy God, on the mountain you revealed the radiance of Christ your Son.

Strengthen your Church to shine with his light in this generation.

We pray for our benefice during this time of vacancy.

Guide all involved in the appointment process for our next Team Rector; grant discernment, patience, and hope, and prepare the heart of the person you are calling to serve among us.

May we, as your people, remain faithful, united, and open to your leading.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of justice and peace, as the cloud of your presence overshadowed Moses and the disciples, overshadow our troubled world with your mercy.

Bring an end to global conflict, violence, and oppression.

Give courage to peacemakers, wisdom to leaders, and protection to all who live in fear or displacement.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, you call us to listen to your beloved Son.  
Open our ears to the needs around us and our hearts to respond with  
generosity and grace.  
Bless our communities, our schools, our workplaces, and all who serve the  
common good.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Radiant Lord, your glory brings healing and hope.  
We pray for all in our benefice who are ill in body, mind, or spirit.  
Surround them with your light, restore them in your love, and uphold all who  
care for them.  
In a moment of quiet, we name before you those on our hearts...  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of eternal light,  
we remember those who have died and those who mourn their passing.  
Bring all your children into the fullness of your glory, where sorrow and pain are  
no more.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Risen Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**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,  
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.**

### **Closing Prayer**

**God of the mountaintops and valleys,  
Be our vision, illuminate our path  
And make us attentive to your word  
So we in turn can be shine in dark places.  
As we offer ourselves to your service  
Bless our humble offerings  
that they may be transfigured  
into your presence in the world.**

### **BLESSING**

**May the self-revealing God  
Be a lamp on your way  
As the day dawns and rises within you  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
rest on you and remain with you always  
Amen**

**Christ has been revealed to us that we might follow him and transform the world.**

**Go in love and work for peace. Amen**