



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

27 February 2022

Transfiguration

Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

Exodus 34: 29-35, Luke 9: 28-36

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.

Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.

OPEN FROM 9.30AM

Livestreaming

at all three worship services

8am

9.30am

6.45pm

8am—Worship

Led by Vivienne and Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship

Led by Sharon Underwood and Clive Pearson

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-6

Includes the baptism of Rory Rollins.
We welcome the family and friends of Rory to worship today.

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Alex Barnett and Alexander Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

What's happening this week at St. Matthew's

MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY

9am—Pricing lower hall

TUESDAY 1 MARCH

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church

WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH



9am-2pm—Op Shop

7.30pm—Ash Wednesday
Worship Service

THURSDAY 3 MARCH

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Coffee &
Discovery

Speaker Barry Gregory
"The Life of a 'Gypsy' Banker"

FRIDAY 4 MARCH

7pm-9pm—Alive
Youth Group at the church



7.30pm—World Day of Prayer
at Wesley Uniting UC Castle Hill.

SATURDAY 5 MARCH

9am-12pm—Op Shop

10am—Care & Prayer

lower hall

12.30pm-3pm—Netball

upstairs hall

SUNDAY 6 MARCH

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

KUCA Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-6

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship



MINISTERS - EVERYONE

SUPPLY MINISTER

REV. CLIVE PEARSON 0409 523 024

Email: minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY WORKER

DANIEL GIBB Part Time

Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

SENIORS PASTORAL CARER

MICHAEL STRONG Part Time

Email: mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

OFFICE : 9686 3003

LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
BAULKHAM HILLS

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“Listen to him”

Over the last couple of weeks our worship has been shaped by Luke’s ‘sermon on the plain. This week we head for the hills. The reading set down for us is the story of the transfiguration of Jesus. The story line is familiar enough. Jesus goes up a mountain to pray; he takes with him Peter, James and John. In the course of his prayer Jesus’ appearance changes – it is transfigured. All of a sudden he is in conversation with Moses and Elijah, hence the representative voices of the law and the prophets. The disciples are sleepy, but managed to stay awake and then hear a voice coming out of a cloud, saying that Jesus is the chosen one, ‘listen to him’. Things then return to normal and Jesus instructs them not to tell anyone about what has happened.

This Sunday is the Feast of the Transfiguration. This ‘strange’ event is rather removed from our ordinary practices of faith that seek to follow Jesus, show care, worship and pursue what is right and just on the basis of his teaching. In the history of the church the transfiguration has often been a theme of great art – think of Raphael. It often leads to sermons that contrast mountain top ‘highs’ with everyday valleys. But the transfiguration is something more than this. It is saying something about Christ himself.

In theology there are a number of ‘episodes’ in the life of Christ which emphasize his relationship to God. They are sometimes referred to as the Godward side of his life and ministry. They are the points of intersection where the humanity and divinity of Christ meet. Luke has more of these episodes than the other gospels, which is not too surprising when you notice how his Christmas story is dedicated to the birth of the ‘son of the most high’.

The transfiguration lies in a pivotal position in this line-up of episodes. On one side lie the account of his pre-existence (John’s prologue), his conception, his birth and his baptism. On the other side lie the agony in the garden, the crucifixion, the resurrection and the ascension. The transfiguration happens on the journey from Jesus’ public ministry to the events of Easter.

What is distinctive about the transfiguration is, first, the encounter with Moses and Elijah. The writer of Luke’s gospel is a Gentile: here he situates Jesus inside the key traditions of Israel. Jesus will summarize the law and he will be called a prophet: he will lament how Jerusalem has killed the prophets in the past. During Jesus’ lifetime the Hebrew Bible had not been formally closed: that would happen later and there would be three parts – the law, the prophets and the writings (Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes etc). Only the law and the prophets were settled at the time of Jesus’ public ministry.

The second feature are those seemingly innocent words: ‘listen to him’. Jesus is no ordinary teacher, no ordinary rabbi. He possesses an authority for his teaching which surpasses theirs. He is ‘the mouthpiece of God’: In the synoptic gospels much is made of having ‘ears to hear’ and ‘hearts to understand’. In all the gospels Jesus’ teaching matters. On the basis of these episodes some Christian scholars refer to Jesus as ‘the human face of God’.

The transfiguration presents us today with a challenge: that challenge is not so much how we understand the ‘event’ in question but rather its significance. In such a noisy world of so many opinions, so many media platforms, how do we ‘listen to him’?

Yours in Christ,

Clive

The Transfiguration in Contemporary Music.

Brian Wren and Ricky Manalo. ‘Jesus on the mountain peak’. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJec8-pfVQk>

David Haas, ‘Song of the Transfiguration’, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkUkCjIFAOE>

JJ Wright. ‘Transfiguration Hymn’, (for a jazzy transfiguration)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COaR1juzhYA>

Hillsong ‘From the cloud you speak’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pri10SRoBPc>



PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Merilyn Philip
Margaret Benoit

Noeleen Neideck

Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

27 February — 5 March

Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR LAWN MAINTENANCE

The more people we have then the less often you will be required. You will require your own lawn mower.



Earl Gray is working with the Office to organise a new roster. Contact the Church Office to volunteer.

IN LOCKDOWN, ISOLATION OR ON YOUR OWN:



If so, would you like some online company for morning tea and a chat

Wednesdays 10am—11am

Join Clive online at

Join Zoom Meeting


<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

Being prepared for next week's worship:

Lent 1:

Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
Theme: The lure of temptation.

The Christian tradition is full of accounts of those for whom faith did not come easily. Sometimes people might be trapped by their own past; they could not believe they were loved, and, if they had done wrong, did not believe they could be forgiven. They may have needed to wrestle with their inner demons; others found themselves having to wrestle with God. They may have detected a call to live their life in a particular way but the temptation for something else remains strong. Our fast-paced world is full of temptations that creep in upon the call to follow and imitate Christ. In the reading taken from Luke Jesus is tempted in the wilderness. The episode mirrors the people of Israel's time in the wilderness as they make their exodus of our Egypt towards what they will call the promised land. The temptations Jesus faces are very attractive: they are like the 'best deals' his time and culture could throw at him. They possess an appeal which he withstands. The Romans reading holds out the promise of salvation to Jew and to Gentile – to those who call upon the name of Jesus.



CHRISTOPHER C. WALKER

DISCIPLESHIP: THINGS TO REMEMBER

SIX LENTEN STUDIES ON BEING A
FOLLOWER OF JESUS IN OUR TIME



THE AUTHOR

Rev Dr Christopher Walker is an ordained minister of the Uniting Church in Australia with a PhD in theology from Claremont University in California. Chris has served in a range of positions and places in the Uniting Church. Chris is an adjunct lecturer in the School of Theology, Charles Sturt University. He lives in Sydney with his wife, Dell. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

Chris has written and edited over a dozen books, including *Thinking the Faith*, *Living the Faith: An Introduction to Christian Theology* (2017), *For Times Such as These*, *Commending the Faith in Australia Today: Eight Studies* (2018) and *Jesus Still The One, the Christian message for a postmodern world* (2019). Most recently, Chris has written two Advent Bible Studies in 2020 and 2021 and a Lenten Bible Study in 2021 published by MediaCom Education.

MediaCom
EDUCATION

Invitation to a series of 6 Lenten studies, to be led by the author, Rev Dr Chris Walker. We had a great group with Chris in Advent 2021, so Chris is back by popular demand!

What: Six-week Lenten study on the book: "Discipleship: Things to Remember".

Session 1: "Remember where you came from and what God has done for you."

Session 2: "Remember your citizenship is in heaven."

Session 3: "Remember to seek the Lord, recognising that God's ways are not our ways."

Session 4: "Remember you are a new creation in Christ, called to the ministry of reconciliation."

Session 5: "Remember the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ and press toward the goal."

Session 6: "Remember to have the same mind as Christ and serve him unashamedly."

Order the book NOW from MediaCom:
\$13.95 per copy

<https://www.mediacomeducation.org.au/shop/discipleship-things-to-remember-six-lenten-studies-on-being-a-follower-of-jesus-in-our-time/>

Why: To deepen your discipleship in life and specifically to prepare you to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

Who: Anyone who feels called to deepen their faith.

When: 7.30-9.00pm 6 Mondays: 7, 14, 21, 28 March & 4, 11 April.

Where: The same Zoom link each time:

Topic: PNP Lent studies with Chris Walker (see above)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98886955795?
pwd=aXorT2RLRlMzdE1uSVkyclVUNClPd09](https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98886955795?pwd=aXorT2RLRlMzdE1uSVkyclVUNClPd09)

Meeting ID: 988 8695 5795

Passcode: 506655

No need to register – just turn up on Zoom!
Please email Rob to say you're coming.

Rev Dr Rob McFarlane

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