



Email: [manseltonurc@gmail.com](mailto:manseltonurc@gmail.com)

Weekly Letter – 25 February 2024

Mark 9.2-9: Psalm 22.23-31

One of the joys of reading the Bible is that you can sense that the writer really is conveying accurately and honestly the scene before him. Here the scene is one in which the disciples are bumbling around trying to make sense of an experience. For you will see how overwhelmed and bedazzled they are by the Transfiguration – and I'm not surprised!

You can imagine that if this event took place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the disciples would be fumbling around trying to catch the scene on their mobiles! And in so doing completely miss what is going on.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> century, instead of focusing and using mobiles they try to capture and contain what they experience, by making the 'brilliant' suggestion of popping everything into three tents! Failing to realize that God can't be contained, for he speaks directly to our hearts.

There's continuing chaos and incomprehensibility of the disciples as they try and understand the role of Elijah, and when they hear about the 'Son of Man' rising from the dead well, there's confusion followed by perplexity and general hullabaloo!

In one sense it seems obvious that the Transfiguration is about the future glory of Jesus, but they like us have difficulty in understanding 'the future', and like the disciples we can easily get in a tizzy about anything new, and challenges our unclear certainties!

We all need time to understand God and His ways. But perhaps the most valuable and practical lesson we can see in this exceptional event is what God says to the disciples, "In order to learn, listen" Mark 9.7 – really listen, and ponder on what you hear, and so continue to listen, for God has the strongest desire to reveal His life and ways to your heart.

***Stephen***

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Frieder Kerschnak  
Bible Readings: Isaiah 41.v10: Mark 4.35-41**

**Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Tabernacle, Mumbles  
Lent Discussion – on Zoom, Tuesday 27/02/24 at 7pm (finish by 8:30pm)**

Our Lent conversations will follow the thread of what kind of followers of Jesus are we looking to be and to grow. We will be talking about what it means to be a disciple today, but to give a longer view we will also reflect on Mark 9:30-37 and Mark 10:32-45.

## **Silver Award of Eco Church**

The Elders, Simon and Adella are giving thought to the Silver Award of Eco Church; both for the Church and the Community Project.

We are looking further as to how as a church and a community resource we can develop more green initiatives and to learn what other churches and organisations in the area are doing too.

You are invited to attend a '**Going Greener Coffee Morning**' on **March 9th at 10.30 until 12.00 and learn more!**

### **Fill us ...**

(Lectionary Readings: Genesis 17.1-7, 13-16: Psalm 22.23-31: Romans 4.13-25: Mark 8.31-38 or Mark 9.2-9)

Gracious God,  
we seek for your love and grace to fill us completely,  
renewing and transforming us to reflect more of you.

**Fill us, O Lord, with your overflowing refreshing presence.**

In this journey of self-reflection and surrender,  
we empty ourselves of distractions and worldly concerns.

**Fill us, O Lord, with your peace and clarity!**

Like a vessel waiting to be filled, we open our hearts,  
ready to receive your word.

**Fill us, O Lord, with your abundant blessings!**

As we journey through the wilderness of life,  
we seek your guiding light to show us the way.

**Fill us, O Lord, with your truth and steadfast assurance!**

In moments of weariness and weakness,  
we find refuge in your sustaining grace.

**Fill us, O Lord, with your empowering strength.**

Just as you promised Abraham a future full of hope,  
we place our trust in your promises for our lives.

**Fill us, O Lord, with the joy of your promises!**

We lift our hearts in anticipation,  
yearning to be filled with your presence and power.

**Fill us, O Lord, with all that you are!**



## I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love

Program written by the  
World Day of Prayer Committee of Palestine for WDP 2024  
Ephesians 4:1-3

The World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement inspired by the motto “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.” We follow the example of Jesus Christ, who prayed from a place of knowledge and care for the world, and who acted from a place of prayer and connection to God.



From Aug 20-27, delegates travelled from around the world to attend the World Day of Prayer International Meeting in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.

The Worship Service shares stories of three Palestinian Christian women, who witness to the power of bearing together in love. Their stories illuminate the experiences of Palestinian women from three different generations. The symbol of an olive tree is used throughout the worship service. This represents the three generations through the trunk, branches, and leaves of the olive tree.

The Palestinian Christian women who wrote this worship service have invited the world to pray for peace, justice and freedom of religion and freedom of movement. Their prayers specifically call us to pray with women, refugees, persons experiencing homelessness, and all who are sick, dying and grieving. They also call us to confess to our collective role in causing the climate crisis, and to commit to repairing what we have destroyed. Finally, they call us, the global church, to be united in treating all with justice and love.

A Service will be held on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> March at 3 pm in All Saints Church, Mumbles.

