

## HOME WORSHIP FOR 14 FEBRUARY, THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

### OPENING PRAYER

In the beauty of a snow-covered forest, sparkling with sunlight; in the beauty of a fast flowing stream, sparkling with sunlight; Artist and Creator God is revealed to us.

In the smile of a new born baby, in the love of parents for their child, vulnerable, miraculous, and in family, God is revealed to us.

In the laughter of children in the school yard, in joy-filled evenings in the park, at home, friendly, enthusiastic, and happy, God is with us.

In the silence of a meditating moment, in the quiet of an evening prayer, gently, confidently, God's will comes clear to us.

Take us to the mountain top, O God; we will see things differently. We will see the great faith figures of the past and value their influence.

Take us to the mountain top, O God; we will be amazed. We will see your Beloved One, Jesus, and know he has words for us to hear.

Take us to the mountain top, O God; we will be awed and afraid. We will know the mystery of The Holy and be ready to worship.

Bring us down from the mountain top, O God, and prepare us for service. We will go about the saving work of Jesus in our church, in our villages, and in our suffering world. Amen.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE – try to memorise this verse from today's readings.

*Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved listen to him!' (Mark 9:7)*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Father, lengthen and deepen our attention span as we, your people, listen to your beloved Son, so that we do not fail to hear his will for us or share his longing for the world to be saved.

Let us worship the Lord: in the beauty of holiness.

Father, with such humility you entered the world to save it through love's giving; increase our desire to enter into one another's suffering and hardship, to share the world's resources fairly with one another, and recognise all humanity as brothers and sisters.

Let us worship the Lord: in the beauty of holiness.

Father, let us not take one another for granted, but wake each morning ready to notice the Christ in each person we see and speak to; and reverence your hidden presence in all creation.

Let us worship the Lord: in the beauty of holiness.

Father, in our prayer we stand alongside all who are too weak to pray, or too confused; may all who are suffering sense your love and comfort, and be given strength to persevere, and peace of mind and spirit.

Let us worship the Lord: in the beauty of holiness.

Father, thank you for providing always the encouragement and inspiration we need for the work you would have us do; give us the grace to trust your will for us and walk forward boldly in your company.

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

### CLOSING PRAYER

Transform us, O God! Transform our apathy into a willingness to get involved. Transform our near-sightedness into a broad vision, a vision that takes account of those far beyond family and friends. Transform our critical nature; enable us to see the essence of all that is challenging and joyful in others. Transform our faith, from a narrow set of beliefs, to a questioning, continuous, and practical quest. With the spirit of Christ we will be transformed! Amen.

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Amen.