

A Reflection for Transfiguration Sunday—February 15, 2026

I know you are probably getting sick of hearing this but at our bible study this week... (what can I say, our bible study is inspiring me!) we got talking about how certain leaders are maybe not setting a great example as they set themselves over and above everyone else and even set themselves and those who follow them above the law, beyond reproach, without consequences. We may have digressed a bit from the bible readings... but it struck me that in our transfiguration story, Jesus offers us a different vision of what it means to be a leader.

You see, Jesus, Rock, Jim and Jack went up that mountain and Jesus was transfigured—lifted up to the level of other great biblical leaders like Moses and Elijah—who, were held in very high esteem—I mean, according to the stories, Moses' face literally glowed after spending 40 days and 40 nights on a mountain top talking to God! And, tradition called for a place for Elijah to be set at the table of the Passover Seder complete with a filled cup of wine. They hope and prepare for the day he will arrive to usher in a new messianic world order, a time of peace. And Jesus was being compared to these two! Talk about lifted up and glorified. Yet when Peter suggest building tents—putting Jesus on a pedestal—setting him aside as holy Lord and Messiah, Jesus is like: “nope, that’s not how I’m going to do this”. And leads them all back down the mountainside to get back to work. Instructing them to say nothing to anyone—(and I truly believe this isn’t just to explain to later converts why no one knew how important Jesus was when he was still alive) this was part and parcel of who Jesus was as the son of God. He didn’t want to be lifted up and worshipped.

That wasn’t going to work to usher in the Kingdom of God because that wasn’t how leadership in the kingdom of God was going to work. Jesus showed us how leadership in the kingdom of God was about lifting up the lowly, the downtrodden, the lost. It was about ensuring equity and justice were lived out in everyday practices. It was about putting love for yourself, your neighbour and God first in everything you did. It was about doing the work of the kingdom as a community—as children of God—as God’s beloved people.

And it means, you aren’t above the law even when it means you will be put to death on a cross. Can you imagine our most powerful leaders today not using (or abusing) their power to get out of deserved punishment let alone undeserved punishment? It would almost be unthinkable for someone with power to go down for something they didn’t do wouldn’t it? And yet, that is what Jesus is willing to do so that no one else will get hurt, in the interest of protection, saving grace, LOVE. It’s a powerful, power that Jesus has—the power to be vulnerable. As we prepare for another Lenten Season, following Jesus to that inevitable ending, may we embrace this same kind of leadership—one that comes down from the mountaintop so that we can walk together (even on the coldest night of the year) with a community that includes everyone—even the lowest—so that everyone can be lifted up.

For this kingdom we pray trusting in God’s power to work through our prayers and so transform our world.

A Prayer for Transfiguration Sunday

When our world is closed in,
and we focus on only our own needs—
may we be a community that lives our lives looking outwards,
seeing beyond ourselves.

May this be a holy transformation.

When our world allows so few to hold so much power,
where food and opportunity is so unfairly divided—
may we be a community that lives our lives sharing,
recognizing each other's needs,
and sharing each problem together.

May this be a holy transformation.

When our world chooses conflict as the only way,
and might feeds every prejudice—
may we be a community that lives our lives in peace,
where differences are celebrated,
and variety brings wholeness.

May this be a holy transformation.

When our world forgets to love—
may we be a community that lives our lives remembering
and reaching out in love
to those who are suffering,
to those who are ill,
to those who are grieving,
to those who are alone, tired, lost or afraid
to all those who need our help
who we name aloud and in our hearts.

May this be a holy transformation.

In the name of the Beloved, who was transformed for us, we pray. **Amen.**