**Morning Praise @ Home 19th February 2023**

**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and**

**repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us**

**from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Readings Exodus 24: 12 - 18 Matthew 17: 1 - 9

**Reflection form Ruth**

*﻿The Transfiguration*

﻿One of my favourite pictures of my father is him sitting in a pub in the West of Ireland with a pint of Guinness in front of him. He looks like the quintessential Irish man.

He worked in the Bank of Ireland, and I never gave it much thought until one night I mentioned it in passing to a young man I knew, who worked there.

He was amazed. “Your father is DES Doyle?” He asked me several times. When I replied yes (so what?) he said “Des Doyle is a legend in the Bank of Ireland.”

And suddenly I was seeing my father in a new way. Far from being a quintessential Irishman, he was an extremely well respected international businessman.

And in our reading today the disciples see Jesus in a new way - as God.

And although Peter identifies Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God, he utterly rejects Jesus’ announcement that he will suffer and die. Jesus affirms Peter’s insight but rejects his protest, calling him Satan for tempting the Son of God to define himself by glory but not by suffering. Furthermore, he calls Peter and anyone else who wants to be his disciple to follow him on the road that leads to the cross.

On the mountainside, when he sees Jesus revealed as God, he is terrified, the actual experience is very different than the words

In his attempt to make sense of the magnificent transformation taking place before his eyes, Peter tries to talk it out, to speak words for the unspeakable. Indeed, while he is still speaking, a bright cloud overshadows all of them and a voice interrupts his speech: “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him.” There are times when it is best not to say anything. Jesus speaks to Peter and the others, “Get up and do not be afraid.” His touch is a sign of comfort and healing and his words reassure that whatever happens next will be in God’s hands, no matter how frightening the circumstances.

So how should we respond? Do we understand Jesus is God but have never experienced Him up close? And what would that be like? Perhaps the knowledge that we too would be afraid is enough to make us keep God at arm’s length. If we are honest enough to admit that to ourselves, it may help us to not be afraid and invite Him in.

**Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Prayers of intercession led by Edwina**

Lord Jesus Christ,

We remember before you the world’s greatest needs and it’s unnoticed sorrows.

At this time we pray for those suffering the consequences of war, especially in war torn Ukraine….

 their way of life overturned,

 their livelihoods shattered,

 their country destroyed,

 their loved ones killed or injured.

Give to those who are trying to make peace, constant patience in their negotiations.

May the ways of diplomacy and the ways of constructive dialogue coincide at the conference table.

Loving God,

We pray today for the victims of the earthquake in northern Syria and southern Turkey. More than 42,000 bodies have been recovered: yet there are stories unfolding of amazing bravery and courage.

Lord, you are the Love that casts out fear.

Pour your Love into the hearts and minds of the bereaved and those frightened by the loss of loved ones. Strengthen all those who suffer and let them know the comfort of your never ending love.

Lord, you are the Light that the darkness can never conquer.

Pour your light into the darkness of our world so that people can see better ways of solving problems.

Lord, you are the Way that leads to the Father.

Show your Way to us here, that we in this church may know the next steps in our pilgrimage of faith together.

Lord, give us open eyes to see the needs of others:

Acute ears to hear the cries of those in distress:

Ready lips to speak for those who have no voice:

Gentle hands to heal the wounds of those who are vulnerable:

And determined feet so we may always walk humbly with you and follow in your ways.

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

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,******Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be, that you may live and work to his praise and glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**