

# **Greystanes Grapevine**The weekly newsletter of Greystanes Uniting Church



#### **27 FEBRUARY 2022**

### **Welcome to online worship**

Please join us for online worship via our Facebook page. This week, Hani is leading our service.

# **Lectionary Readings**

#### This week February 27, 2022:

Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

#### Next Week March 6, 2022:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13

#### **Church returns next week**

Church Council have decided in light of the changes to the Government's covid health orders, that **church** will resume in person on Sunday 6th March. We look forward to seeing you there!

# World Day of Prayer Service

Each year Christians around the world come together on the first Friday in March to pray for the people of particular nations.

This year's World Day of Prayer Service will be held next Friday 4th March at 10.30am at Pendle Hill Baptist Church, 52 Pendle Way, Pendle Hill. The service will be followed by morning tea and the chance to catch up with people from the other churches in Holroyd.





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## A Mountain Top Experience - Luke 9:28-36

Today is the last Sunday after Epiphany and it is also known as Transfiguration Sunday. The word "transfigure" as a verb means "to transform into something more beautiful or elevated."

Have you ever been to the top of a mountain where it seems like you can see forever? Have you ever been to the top of a mountain and seen its sweeping beauty? Do you remember the last time you experienced something so awesome, so amazing that you were stunned, thrilled, blown away? Maybe you saw something, or you met someone, or you experienced something so great that you have never forgotten about it.

My theme for today is titled 'A Mountain Top Experience'. This is what the disciples- Peter, James and John experienced when they went up the mountain with Jesus.

The question we need to ask is this- what is the purpose of a mountain top experience? Jesus did not need all his disciples to witness this amazing event. He needed only three!

In the Old Testament, we know the story of Moses' Mountain top experience on Mount Sinai. When Moses came down from the mountain, Moses' face shone like the sun. His face was shining like the sun because Moses had this mountaintop experience. Moses walked down the mountain with the Ten Commandments, the moral law for humanity.

On the mountaintop, a person sees with utter clarity the truth about God. In the New Testament, this mountaintop is called the Transfiguration. It is the mountain top story for today.

While on that mountain, the eyes of the disciples were dazzled with visionary excitement because Jesus was transfigured before them. Does the Transfiguration story excite us even though we were not present like Peter, James and John?

The Transfiguration story is a well known story and it is a story that bridges the epiphany season and Lent.

Mountain top experiences are needed to prepare us for the trials and temptations in the valley where our faith is tested most.

Grace and Peace

Hani