



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

8 February 2026 Rev Geoff Flynn Rev Sam Sadrata Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

## Matthew 17:1-9 (NLT)

### The Transfiguration

**17** Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone.

**2** As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light.

**3** Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus.

**4** Peter exclaimed, "Lord, it's wonderful for us to be here! If you want, I'll make three shelters as memorials - one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

**5** But even as he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him."

**6** The disciples were terrified and fell face down on the ground.

**7** Then Jesus came over and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."

**8** And when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus.

**9** As they went back down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

## 2 Peter 1:16-21 (NLT)

**16** For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes **17** when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

**18** We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

**19** Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.

**20** Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, **21** or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

### Other Lectionary Readings:

Psalms 2 Psalms 99



## Lent/Easter Journey

17 February – Shrove/Pancake Tuesday 10:30am Southside

18 February – Ash Wednesday 10:30am Southside

25 February – Lenten Study 7pm Zoom – five weeks

26 February – Lenten Study 2pm St Andrew's Room – five weeks

29 March – Palm Sunday Combined 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11am at Tamworth City

2 April – Maundy Thursday 7pm Southside

3 April – Good Friday 9am Tamworth City

5 April – Easter Sunday Combined 9:30am Southside

### CHURCH SERVICES 11am West Tamworth

22 February ~ Meg Mangan

1 March ~ Rev Geoff

Holy Communion followed by lunch



### PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal:

**"To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."**

Mission: **"Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."**

Minister: Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202

Rev Sam Sadrata 0431 216 188

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

Elder: Margaret Crowell

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH



The quality of your life improves the moment you start choosing peace over proving a point

~ Bolt Rodriguez

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We continue to uphold Marg and Pat as they recover from surgery.
- We pray for Chris Wright and all of his family as they mourn the loss of Chris' sister, Lone.
- We give thanks for the rain which fell last Monday.
- We pray for an end to prejudice, in all its' forms.
- We pray for Mere Sadrata as she prepares for the birth of their second child.


One day a teacher went out to walk in the garden with his students. While walking, they saw a small flower blooming on a stone. One of the students started laughing.

He said, "How funny this flower is! How it bent while climbing through the gap in the stone!"

The others also started laughing. But the teacher smiled lightly and said, "Do you know, this small flower can teach us a lot?"

The students were surprised and asked, "Teach us? How?"

The teacher said,

 "If a small flower can grow even from a hard obstacle like a stone, then you are much stronger.

If someone laughs at your dreams or efforts, you should not be discouraged by their ridicule and move forward like this flower. And, let us never laugh at the struggles of others because maybe they are breaking their stone."

The students fell silent. They understood that behind laughter, contempt is often hidden, which can break someone. Rather, people should be taught with praise, sympathy and love.

Education: Real education is not to laugh at the pain or weakness of others, but to see them with compassion. Because, no one knows when and where a person will rise from. ~ anon



### Meg's Musings

Last Friday I attended the memorial service for Eddie Whitham.

Eddie, whose Mum had migrated from Palestine, spent much of his life "paying it forward".

Australia had been good to Eddie, and his family.

Eddie chose to be as welcoming, generous and helpful to migrants as he possibly could.

The three women who spoke during the service are wonderful examples of what can be achieved through kindness and acceptance. They have built full and successful lives, and are contributing to the wellbeing of others.

There have been demonstrations over recent times (not in Tamworth), demanding that refugees be returned to their country of origin.

Such hatred and hostility is counter-productive. It is also un-Christian.

I am so glad that Tamworth has found a better, multi-cultural way forward. Thank you, Eddie!

*Blessing from Meg*



The little bird asked the elephant,  
"Why should we be kind?"



*Because kindness is the one gift everyone can afford to give.*



**Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville**  
**9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday.**

Cuppa and a chat always available.

**4th Sunday Monthly Hallsville Markets**

Big breakfast served 8:00 - 10:00 am

Next Markets 22 February



## Minister's Reflection – Transfiguration Sunday TRUC Newsletter

The season of Epiphany ends not with a gentle dimming of the light, but with a blaze that is almost too much to bear. The lectionary places us on two mountains this week. Sinai with Moses, and the unnamed mountain with Jesus — and invites us to consider what happens when human beings are drawn into the radiance of God.

Both texts are moments of unveiling. Both are moments of formation. Both are moments that prepare God's people for a journey they do not yet understand.

In Exodus 24, Moses is summoned into the cloud, the thick darkness where God dwells. The Hebrew text is striking: the glory of the Lord appears like a "devouring fire," yet Moses enters it. The place that looks like destruction becomes the place of communion. The mountain becomes a threshold where human finitude meets divine holiness, and Moses is changed.

In Matthew 17, Jesus is transfigured. Not changed into something new but revealed as who he truly is. The Greek word *metamorphōō* does not describe a costume change; it describes an unveiling of essence. The disciples glimpse for a moment the eternal Son shining through the human Jesus.

Both Moses and Jesus stand in the radiance of God though only one generates the light.

The Transfiguration is not an isolated miracle; it is a theological hinge. It reveals that glory and suffering are not opposites in the economy of God. The One who shines on the mountain is the same One who will soon walk toward Jerusalem, toward conflict, toward the cross.

The disciples want to build shelters perhaps to preserve the moment, to domesticate the mystery. Yet a voice interrupts "This is my Son, the Beloved... listen to him."

The command is not to look or perhaps capture the moment, but to listen and be shaped by it.

This is the same dynamic at Sinai. Moses does not ascend the mountain to be dazzled; he ascends to receive the covenant that will shape Israel's life.

Revelation is always for the sake of formation.

As we stand on the edge of Lent, these texts ask us a profound question:

*What does it mean for us to be transformed?*

Not in the sense of glowing faces or dazzling garments, but in the deeper, covenantal sense. The transformation that happens when a community listens to God long enough to be changed. Transformation in Scripture is rarely instantaneous. It is slow. It is costly. It is embodied.

Moses waits in the clouds and God speaks. Jesus descends the mountain into the valley of human need.

The disciples are told to keep silent until resurrection reframes everything. Transformation is not an event; it is a pilgrimage.

Ash Wednesday will soon mark our foreheads with ash. A reminder that transformation begins with truth-telling. We are mortal. We are limited. We are not the source of the light; we are bearers of it.

Lent is not a season of self-improvement but a season of reorientation. It is the time when we allow God to strip away the illusions we cling to. Illusions of control, of self-sufficiency, of spiritual achievement, so that the deeper work of grace can take root. To be transformed like Moses is to enter the cloud of unknowing, trusting that God meets us in the places where clarity fails.

To be transformed like Christ is to allow the radiance of God's love to shine through our humanity. Not by escaping it rather by inhabiting it fully. Perhaps the invitation for TRUC this year is not to seek mountaintop moments, but to become a people who carry the light down the mountain.

The Transfiguration is not the end of Epiphany's light; it is the promise that the light will accompany us into the wilderness.

May this radiance guide our steps.

May this glory prepare our hearts.

And may this Lent be a season in which we, too, are slowly, quietly, faithfully transformed.

*Rev Sam Sadrata*



### **Exodus 24:12-18** (NLT)

<sup>12</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain. Stay there, and I will give you the tablets of stone on which I have inscribed the instructions and commands so you can teach the people."

<sup>13</sup> So Moses and his assistant Joshua set out, and Moses climbed up the mountain of God.

<sup>14</sup> Moses told the elders, "Stay here and wait for us until we come back. Aaron and Hur are here with you. If anyone has a dispute while I am gone, consult with them."

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses climbed up the mountain, and the cloud covered it.

<sup>16</sup> And the glory of the LORD settled down on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from inside the cloud.

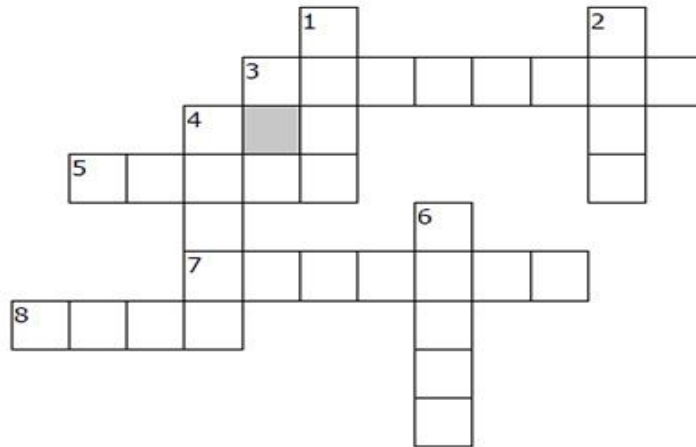
<sup>17</sup> To the Israelites at the foot of the mountain, the glory of the LORD appeared at the summit like a consuming fire.

<sup>18</sup> Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain. He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

# The Transfiguration

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 17:1-9



## ACROSS

3. A raised part of the earth's surface, larger than a hill
5. A white or gray mass of very small drops of water that floats in the sky
7. Articles of apparel such as pants, shirts, dresses, etc.
8. To have a strong feeling of affection for someone

## DOWN

1. Something that is pleasing, enjoyable, or of high quality
2. Having a great distance from top to bottom
4. The sound produced by the vocal organs; what we use to speak
6. The color of snow or milk

HIGH VOICE	CLOUD GOOD	WHITE LOVE	MOUNTAIN CLOTHES
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D Q E A A R J Z X Y V T H D M  
 G P Y C S L P P J O H N E Y Y  
 X P O J A F X B D Y Y C M R D  
 J T K F H E H F M U I I I Q K  
 T S V G W A W J U O C Y U C R  
 U V I J J H E N V M M G E G N  
 D H D I A V I J B O O L O T T  
 G X L A O M O T Y U S A W O Z  
 S E S L Y X E V E N E U D F D  
 Q M Y G J S Z S O T S I I R M  
 A P P E A R E D D A S G E X S  
 Q Q Q Z V O R S G I K T X C C  
 B R V W H T Q V L N E D B X H  
 R O S I X K D L Q P I G R K V  
 N U L W I T P G C L O T H E S

~ Sermons 4 Kids

SIX LOVE JAMES	PETER MOSES DAYS	CLOTHES GOOD APPEARED	VOICE WHITE MOUNTAIN	JOHN ELIJAH HIGH
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..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus