

FROM Normal Time TO
THE
TRANSFIGURATION

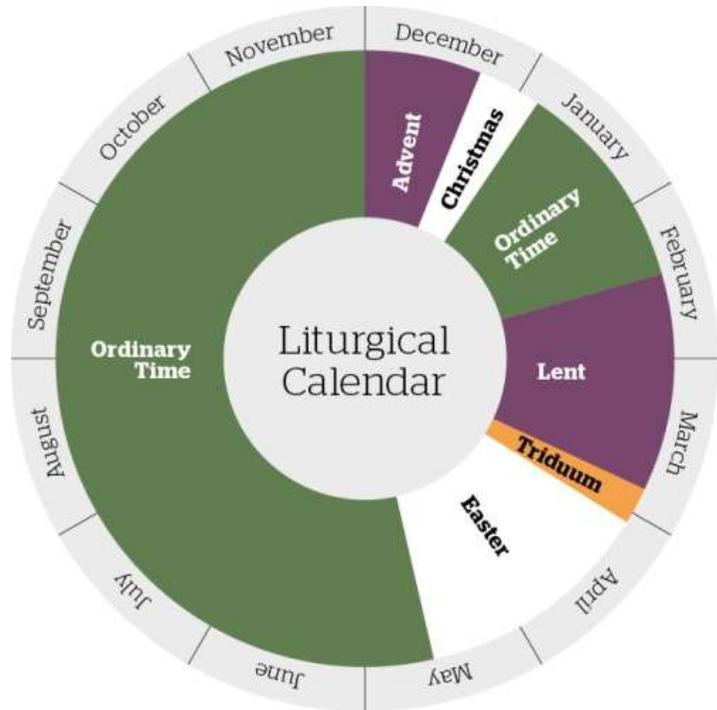
January - March 2019

An exploration of the Lectionary Readings for this period

Revised Common Lectionary:

From Normal Time to the Transfiguration

13 January – 3 March



This booklet contains the Lectionary Readings for the week, with emphasis on the Gospels and Psalms.

The Daily readings expand the range of biblical readings in worship and personal devotion; they complement the Sunday readings and can help prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead or help reflect and digest what was heard in worship.

All congregants are encouraged to make sermon notes on a Sunday and to join a small group for deeper discussion in the week.

8 WEEKS:

Sunday 13 January
Sunday 20 January
Sunday 27 January – Covenant Sunday
Sunday 3 February
Sunday 10 February
Sunday 17 February
Sunday 24 February
Sunday 3 March – Transfiguration Sunday

All Bible readings: Gateway NIV version
All Daily readings from: www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu

Normal Time to the Transfiguration



Monday	7 Jan: Psalm 72; Daniel 2:1-19; Ephesians 4:17-5:1
Tuesday	8 Jan: Psalm 72; Daniel 2:24-49; Ephesians 5:15-20
Wednesday	9 Jan: Psalm 72; Numbers 24:15-19; Luke 1:67-79
Thursday	10 Jan: Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; I Corinthians 1:18-31
Friday	11 Jan: Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; I Corinthians 2:1-10
Saturday	12 Jan: Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; I Corinthians 2:11-16



Sunday - January 13

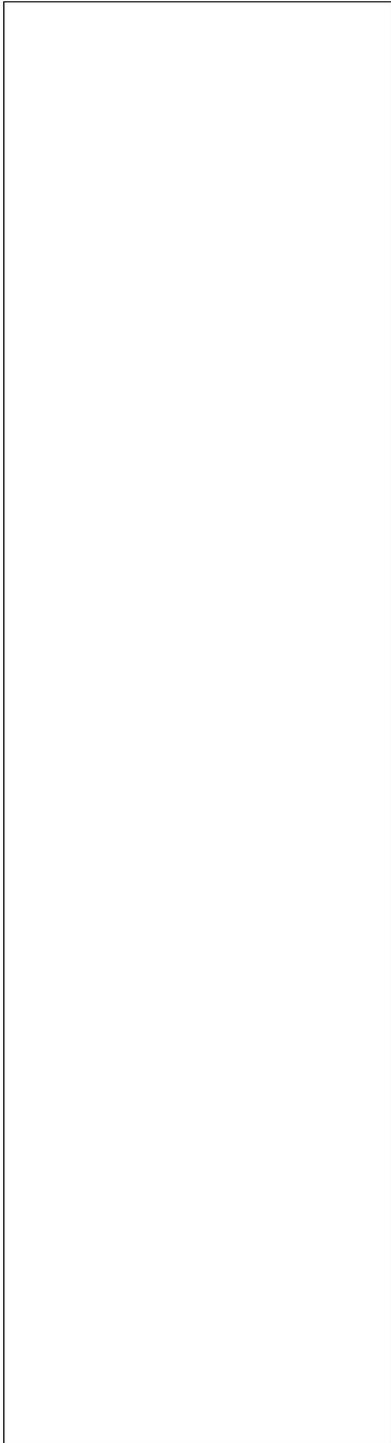


SUNDAY READINGS

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



Sunday	13 Jan: (see above)
Monday	14 Jan: Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 4:1-16; Ephesians 6:10-17
Tuesday	15 Jan: Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 5:12-21; I John 5:13-21
Wednesday	16 Jan: Psalm 106:1-12; Numbers 27:1-11; Luke 11:33-36
Thursday	17 Jan: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:1-5; Acts 8:18-24
Friday	18 Jan: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:19-25; I Corinthians 7:1-7
Saturday	19 Jan: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 4:1-4; Luke 11:14-23



Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” **The Baptism and Genealogy of Jesus.** ²¹When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Psalm 29 A psalm of David.

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness. ³The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. ⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic. ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning. ⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh. ⁹The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, “Glory!” ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever. ¹¹The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.



WORSHIP SONG: I STAND IN AWE
(<https://youtu.be/Ejv9L8V9xOE>)

Normal Time to the Transfiguration



- Who has been the “John the Baptist” in your life (the person that lead you to Jesus)? Have you ever thanked them?
- Who do you know, that is waiting to hear that Jesus is real? How can you engage them?
- Luke 3: 21 tells us Jesus was praying even though surrounded by others. Do you pray throughout the day or at specific times? How is this working for you? What can you do to have a more meaningful prayer life?

Sunday - January 20



SUNDAY READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, I Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11



Sunday	20 Jan: (see above)
Monday	21 Jan: Psalm 145; Isaiah 54:1-8; Romans 12:9-21
Tuesday	22 Jan: Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:1-8; I Corinthians 1:3-17
Wednesday	23 Jan: Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1; Luke 5:33-39
Thursday	24 Jan: Psalm 19; Isaiah 61:1-7; Romans 7:1-6
Friday	25 Jan: Psalm 19; Nehemiah 2:1-10; Romans 12:1-8
Saturday	26 Jan: Psalm 19; Nehemiah 5:1-13; Luke 2:39-52

John 2:1-11

Jesus Changes Water into Wine. On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." ⁴"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet. " They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did

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not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Psalm 36:5-10 (Xhosa)

⁵Yehova, inceba yakho ifikelela ezulwini, Ukuthembeka kwakho esibhakabhakeni.

⁶Ubulungisa bakho bunjengeentaba zikaThixo; Izigwebo zakho zingamanzi enzonzobila; Usindisa umntu neenkomo, Yehova. ⁷Hayi, ixabiso lenceba yakho, Thixo! Oonyana babantu bazimela ngethunzi lamaphiko akho. ⁸Bayahluthiswa kukutyeba kwendlu yakho; Ubaseza emlanjeni weziyolo zakho. ⁹Ngokuba likuwe ithende lobomi; Ekukhanyeni kwakho sibona ukukhanya. ¹⁰Bolulele inceba yakho abakwaziyo, Ubolulele ubulungisa bakho abantliziyo zithe tye.



WORSHIP SONG: AT THE CROSS

(<https://youtu.be/SUvpBphq5og>)



- What is the most unusual wedding you attended?
- Why do you think Jesus chose a wedding for his first miracle?
- This was not an emergency miracle or one that many witnessed. Do you think that we miss a lot of miracles that seem only “natural” today? Explain why you think so.
- Are you waiting for a miracle in your life at present? What are you hearing God say to you?

Sunday - 27 January

COVENANT SERVICE



SUNDAY READINGS

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, I Corinthians 12:12-31a,
Luke 4:14-21



Sunday	27 Jan: (see above)
Monday	28 Jan: Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:1-10; I Corinthians 14:1-12
Tuesday	29 Jan: Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:11-26; 2 Corinthians 7:2-12
Wednesday	30 Jan: Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:27-32; Luke 4:38-44
Thursday	31 Jan: Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 34:1-7; Acts 10:44-48
Friday	1 Feb: Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 35:20-27; Acts 19:1-10
Saturday	2 Feb: Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21; John 1:43-51

The Covenant:

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
Put me to doing, put me to suffering;
Let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
Exalted for you, or brought low for you;
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Luke 4:14-21

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth ¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”



Psalm 19 (SeSotho)

Modimo, Mmopi, le mofani wa Molao

1 Pesalema ya Davida, e qapetsweng motsamaisi wa dibini. 2 Mahodimo a phatlalatsa tlotla ya Morena, sebaka sa lehodimo se a bolela, se bolela mosebetsi wa diatla tsa hae; 3 letsatsi ka leng le phetela le leng, bosiu ka bong bo tsebisa bo bong, 4 ho se puo, ho se polelo, ho se mantswa a utlwahlang. 5 Empa modumo wa tsona o anetse lefatshe lohle, polelo tsa tsona di finyeletse, di finyeletse pheletsong tsa lefatshe. Mahodimong, Modimo o hlometse letsatsi tente, 6 mme lona le ka monyadi a etswa leqatheng, jwaloka mohale, le thabela ho qeta tsela ya lona. 7 le tjhaba ntlheng e nngwe ya mahodimo, le potoloha ho fella ntlheng e nngwe; ha ho letho le ka balehang mofuthu wa lona. 8 Molao wa Morena o phethehile, ke mmusapelo; temoso tsa Morena di a tshepahala, di hlalefisa sethoto. 9 Melao ya Morena e lokile, e hlatswa pelo; taelo ya Morena e hlakile, e edisa mahlo. 10 Ho tshaba Morena ke ntho e molemo, e ke keng ya fetoha ho isa kgale; dikahlolo tsa Morena ke tsa nnete, kaofela ha tsona di lokile. 11 Di kgahleha ho feta kgauta, ho feta le kgauta e hlwekisitsweng haholo; di monate ho feta mahe a dinotshi, mahe a rothang kgekeng ya tsona. 12 Di ruta mohlanka wa hao, ya di bolokang o fumana moputso o moholo. 13 Empa ke mang ya ka eellwang diphoso tsa hae? Ako ntokolle ho tseo ke sa di tsebeng. 14 Phemisa mohlanka wa hao, o mo phemise boikgantsho, o se ke wa dumella hore bo mpuse. Kahoo ke tla hloka kodi, ke hloke molato wa sebe se sehlo. 15 Ako kgahlwe ke mantswa a tswang molomong wa ka, le ke menahano e ka pelong ya ka, wena Morena, lefika la ka, le molopolli wa ka.

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WORSHIP SONG: LIVING HOPE
(<https://youtu.be/9f2FXxDVO6w>)



Read though the covenant prayer:

- a. What jumps out at you?
- b. What would be easy for you to do?
- c. What would you find difficult to say or do?
- d. What is God asking you to stop doing?
- e. What is God asking you to continue doing?
- f. What new challenges do you think lie ahead for you this year?

pray
EVERY DAY

Sunday 3 February



SUNDAY READINGS

Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, I Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30



daily readings

Sunday 3 Feb: (see above)
Monday 4 Feb: Psalm 56; I Kings 17:8-16; I Corinthians 2:6-16
Tuesday 5 Feb: Psalm 56; 2 Kings 5:1-14; I

Corinthians 14:13-25

Wednesday 6 Feb: Psalm 56; Jeremiah 1:11-19; Luke 19:41-44
Thursday 7 Feb: Psalm 138; Numbers 20:22-29; Acts 9:19b-25
Friday 8 Feb: Psalm 138; Numbers 27:12-23; Acts 9:26-31
Saturday 9 Feb: Psalm 138; Judges 3:7-11; Luke 4:42-44



Luke 4:21-30

²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked. ²³ Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’” ²⁴ “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Psalm 71:1-6 (Afrikaans)

Nou dat ek oud geword het | By U, Here, skuil ek, laat my tog nooit teleurgestel staan nie!
2 Red my en bevry my, want U is getrou. Luister tog na my en help my!
3 Wees vir my 'n rots om na toe te vlug, waar ek altyd die veiligheid mag vind wat U tot my redding beskik het, want U is my rots en my vesting.
4 My God, bevry my uit die hand van goddeloses, uit die greep van skurke en verdrukkers,
5 want U, Here, U is my hoop, op U, Here, het ek van jongs af vertrou.
6 U is my hulp van my geboorte af, reeds voor ek in die wêreld gekom het, het U my beskerm. U loof ek gedurigdeur.



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WORSHIP SONG: WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME
(<https://youtu.be/nQWFzMvCfLE>)



- Jesus' reaction in the above scripture is quite severe. He possibly felt it necessary to separate himself from the opinions of those around him. We enjoy scripture when it offers freedom, acceptance and understanding, but not when it is directly opposed to our thinking or the culture of the day.
- Which current cultural thinking do you think is against biblical writings? How are you managing this contradiction?
- “Familiarity breeds contempt”.
- Have you ever felt that you are not heard by the people closest to you?
 - Are you holding on to a way of thinking or an action that feels safe, but you know is destructive to you? Think of a “recurring” head butting with someone in your life. Why are you not listening to their advice?
 - What will you do to ensure you listen to people differently?



Sunday 10 February



SUNDAY READINGS

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13), Psalm 138, I Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11



Sunday	10 Feb: (see above)
Monday	11 Feb: Psalm 115; Judges 5:1-11; I Corinthians 14:26-40
Tuesday	12 Feb: Psalm 115; I Samuel 9:15-10:1b; Timothy 3:1-9

Wednesday	13 Feb: Psalm 115; Isaiah 8:1-15; Luke 5:27-32
Thursday	14 Feb: Psalm 1; Jeremiah 13:12-19; Acts 13:26-34
Friday	15 Feb: Psalm 1; Jeremiah 13:20-27; 1 Peter 1:17-2:1
Saturday	16 Feb: Psalm 1; Jeremiah 17:1-4; Luke 11:24-28

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

5 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

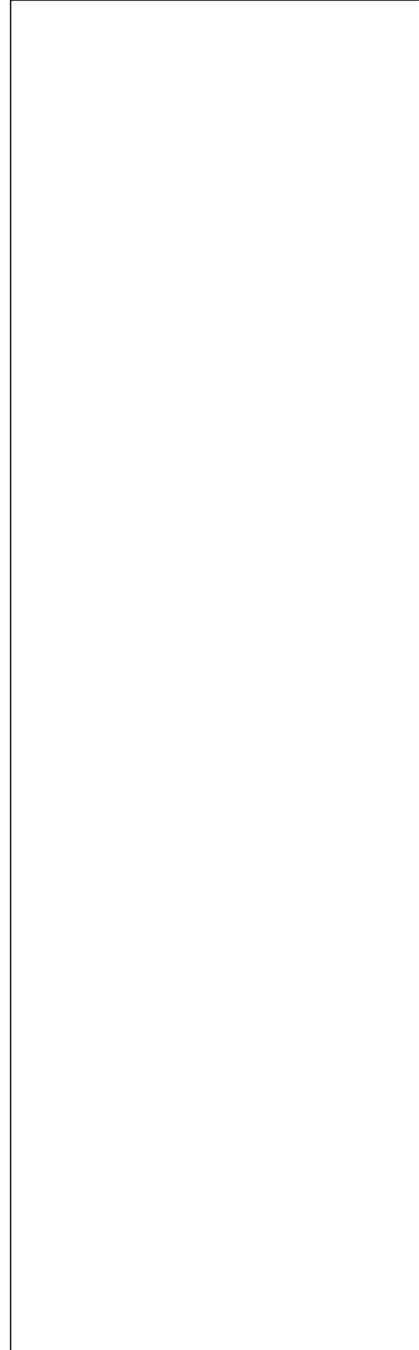
⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Psalm 138 of David.

¹ I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart; before the "gods" I will sing your praise. ² I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness, for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame. ³ When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me. ⁴ May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD, when they hear what you have decreed. ⁵ May they sing of the ways of the LORD, for the glory of the LORD is great. ⁶ Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly; though lofty, he sees them from afar. ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life.

You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me.

⁸ The LORD will vindicate me; your love, LORD, endures forever—do not abandon the works of your hands.





WORSHIP SONG: GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE
(<https://youtu.be/hKBj457ILUo>)



- Simon said the Lord should depart from him because he was a sinful man. It is quite a common biblical motif for a person to feel unworthy in the presence of God. Do you sometimes feel like that? Why?
- In this story God once again shows us that he gives more than we expect (boat full of fish). This theme is repeated in other places as well: the healing of the paralytic man Luke 5:17-26, the feeding of the multitudes Luke 9:12-17, to name a few. When Jesus called, Peter was hesitant, thinking that he would not be able to do what Jesus is demanding. But he responds, and he discovers a life he could never have imagined.
 - Are you living a life that reflects a small God or a God that gives us more than we deserve or expect?
 - What is making you hesitate?
- God often shows himself in the ordinary, seemingly unnecessary events in a person's life (like when they were fishing). Where have you ever felt a prompting from God and how did you react?

Sunday 17 February



SUNDAY READINGS

Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26



Sunday	17 Feb: (see above)
Monday	18 Feb: Psalm 120; 2 Kings 24:18-25:21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-34
Tuesday	19 Feb: Psalm 120; Ezra 1:1-11; 2 Corinthians 1:12-19
Wednesday	20 Feb: Psalm 120; Ezra 1:1-11; 2 Corinthians 1:12-19

Thursday	21 Feb: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 43:16-34; Romans 8:1-11
Friday	22 Feb: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:1-17; I John 2:12-17
Saturday	23 Feb: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:18-34; Luke 12:57-59

Luke 6:17-26

Blessings and Woes ¹⁷He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. ²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.



Blessed are you who weep now for you will laugh. ²²Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ²³"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴"But woe to you who are rich for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Psalm I (Xhosa)

Hayi, uyolo lomntu ongahambiyo ngecebo labangendawo, Ongemiyo endleleni yaboni, Ongahlaliyo embuthweni yabagxeki! ²Yena unonelela umyalelo kaYehova; Ucamanga ngomyalelo wakhe imini nobusuku: ³Unjengomthi omiliselwe phezu kwemijelo yamanzi, Onika isiqhamo sawo ngexesha lawo, Oqgabi lawo lingabuniyo; Konke akwenzayo kophumelela. ⁴Abanjalo abangendawo; Bona banjengomququ ophetshethwa ngumoya. ⁵Ngenxa yoko abangendawo abanakuma emgwebeni, Naboni ebandleni lamalungisa. ⁶Ngokuba uYehova uyayazi indlela yamalungisa; Ke yona indlela yabangendawo iya kudaka.





WORSHIP SONG: ALL OF MY DAYS
(<https://youtu.be/RocPcgqCDE0>)



- Jesus got his healing ability from the Holy Spirit. On this occasion he healed everyone that was there. There is no reference to lack of faith or the amount of faith that people need. Jesus simply and completely healed everyone that desired it.
 - Do you believe that God can perform miracles and healing in your life too? Where do you need healing today? Pray for each other.
 - God gives us the same power of healing, that he gave to the apostles. Have you ever performed or witnessed a healing? Please share.
 - If you feel uncomfortable with the above questions, explore why.
- The Scripture from verse 20 is quite challenging. Christ never said what people wanted to hear, but what they needed to hear. He spoke truth – and the truth is that following God is sometimes tough. He spoke of poverty, hunger, persecution as blessings and wealth and being well fed as being a curse! He taught people to love their enemies! This is an upside down worldview.
 - When we read these words we tend to:
 - Spiritualise it (we don't have to really apply it).
 - Project it to the future (it is only for the future kingdom, we do not have to live like that now).
 - Believe it is just God laying down a standard for Christian living.
 - Which one resonates most with your way of thinking?
 - Can you live up to the standards that God is setting? How easy or difficult is it for you?



Sunday 24 February



SUNDAY READINGS

Genesis 45:3-11, 15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38



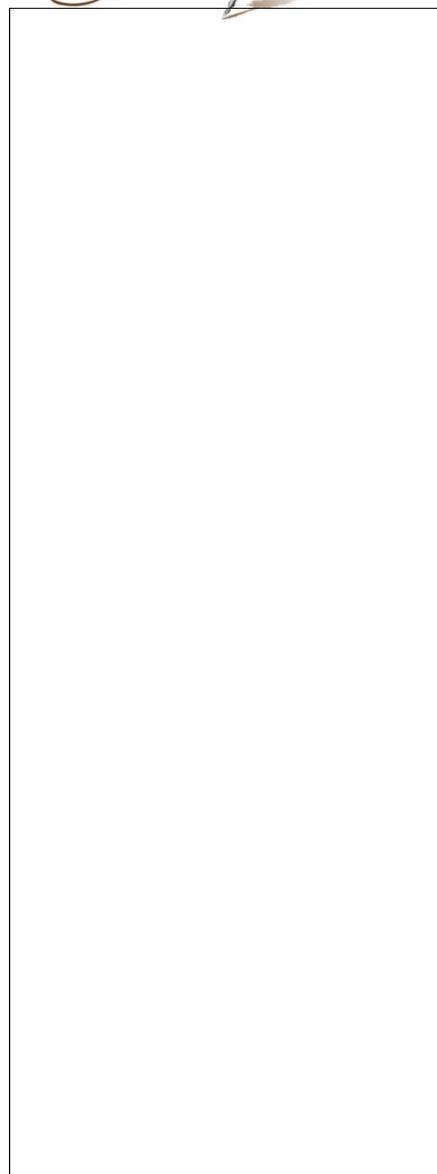
Sunday	24 Feb: (see above)
Monday	25 Feb: Psalm 38; Genesis 33:1-17; I Corinthians 11:2-16 15:20-34
Tuesday	26 Feb: Psalm 38; I Samuel 24:1-22; I Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33
Wednesday	Psalm 38; Leviticus 5:1-13; Luke 17:1-4
Thursday	Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:1-5; Acts 3:11-16
Friday	Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:6-14; Acts 10:1-8
Saturday	Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:15-24; Luke 10:21-24

Luke 6:27-38

Love for Enemies ²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. **Judging Others** ³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Psalm 37:1-11 (Sesotho)

O se ke wa befelwa ka baka la badirabobe. O se ke wa hufegela bao ba dirago tša go se loke. 2 Gobane ba tla



Normal Time to the Transfiguration

omelela ka pela go etša bjang, Ba pona go etša bjang bjo botala bjo bonanana. 3 Bota Jehofa, o dire tše dibotse; Dula lefaseng gomme o dire tša potego. 4 Le gona thabela Jehofa kudu, Gomme yena o tla go nea tše pelo ya gago e di kgopelago. 5 Lahlela tsela ya gago go Jehofa, O ithekge ka yena, gomme yena o tla go thuša. 6 O tla tšweletša toko ya gago go etša seetša, Gomme toka ya gago a e tšweletša go etša mosegare wa sekgalela. 7 Ikhomolele pele ga Jehofa Gomme o mo letele ka tlhologelo. O se ke wa befelela le ge e le mang yo a atlegago tseleng ya gagwe, Wa befelela motho yo a phethago dikgopolo tša gagwe. 8 Lesa go galefa gomme o tlogele go befelwa; O se tlale pelo, gobane seo se lebiša bobeng. 9 Gobane badirabobe bona ba tla fedišwa, Eupša bao ba holofetšego Jehofa ke bona bao e tlogo go ba beng ba lefase. 10 Go se gokae yo kgopo o tla be a se sa le gona; Wena o tla lebelela lefelo la gagwe, gomme yena o tla be a se gona. 11 Eupša ba boleta bona e tla ba beng ba lefase, Ba tla thaba kudu ka baka la go ata ga khutšo.



WORSHIP SONG: MELO PELO
(<https://youtu.be/7GOeecm2VHU>)



- In a world plagued by violence, highjacking and murder, it is very difficult to hear God say “Love your enemies”. We cannot help but react emotionally. Sometimes we associate love with people we like, close friends and family, whilst Jesus means we need to think of everyone with love. We need to wish for their well-being, even our enemies. Just as He loves us all.
- Do you have someone in mind when you hear the word enemy? (You don’t have to share if you don’t want to).
 - When you think of them, do you see them in a positive light? What is stopping you from setting them free?
 - Pray for God to help you to pray for them. To pray for their forgiveness. That they can realize what they are doing wrong.
- Mother Teresa said: *“Love, to be true, has to hurt. I must be willing to give whatever it takes not to harm other people, and in fact, to do good to them. This requires that I be willing to give until it hurts. Otherwise, there is no love in me and I bring injustice, not peace, to those around me.”* Do you agree?
- Wow do you interpret “turn the other cheek” (Matthew 5:38-40)?



Sunday - March 3



SUNDAY READINGS

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



Sunday	3 March: (see above)
Monday	4 March: Psalm 35:11-28; Exodus 35:1-29; Acts 10:9-23a
Tuesday	5 March: Psalm 35:11-28; Ezekiel 1:1; 2:1; Acts 10:23b-33
Wednesday	6 March: Ash Wednesday
Thursday	7 March: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 5:10-23; Acts 7:30-34
Friday	8 March: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 6:1-13; Acts 7:35-42
Saturday	9 March: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; John 12:27-36

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

The Transfiguration ²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. ³¹ They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.) ³⁴ While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.





Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed boy ³⁷ The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. ³⁸ A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child." ³⁹ A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ "You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

Psalm 99

Die Here ons God is heilig

Die Here regeer: die volke erken bewend sy gesag. Hy troon oor die gerubs: die aarde sidder van ontsag. 2Groot is die Here, Hy wat in Sion is, hoog verhewe bo al die volke. 3Hulle moet u groot en gevreesde Naam prys: "U is heilig!"

4U is die magtige Koning, U het die reg lief; wat reg is, het U tot stand gebring. U het reg en geregtigheid in Jakob gevestig. 5Prys die Here ons God. Kom buig in aanbidding voor Hom: Hy is heilig! 6Moses en Aäron was onder sy priesters, Samuel onder dié wat sy Naam aangeroop het. Hulle het die Here aangeroop en Hy het hulle gebed verhoor. 7In 'n wolkkolom het God met hulle gepraat, en hulle het sy voorskrifte gehoorsaam, die opdragte wat Hy hulle gegee het. 8Here ons God, U het hulle gebede verhoor. U was vir hulle 'n vergewende God, maar Een wat ook hulle sondes gestraf het. 9Prys die Here ons God, buig voor Hom op sy heilige berg, want die Here ons God is heilig.



WORSHIP SONG: EVEN IF

(<https://youtu.be/B6fA35Ved-Y>)



- Have you ever had a jaw-dropping experience in your life? What happened?
- The appearance of a cloud reminds us of the glory of God covering his people in a cloud in Exodus. What does the voice in the cloud

Normal Time to the Transfiguration

- tell us about Jesus, especially compared to Moses and Elijah.
- Habakkuk 2:20 says, “The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him” Prayer should be seeking the power and presence of God in our lives. Take some time to sit in stillness and silence to reflect on the glory of God.
 - How did Jesus’s transfiguration help his disciples with his subsequent crucifixion?
 - What is one thing that God is saying to you personally today?



SOURCES CONSULTED

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching>
https://redeeminggod.com/sermons/luke/luke_6_17-26/
<https://livingspace.sacredspace.ie/o2235g/>
www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=C
www.bybelgenootskap.co.za
www.biblehub.com
www.bible.com
www.bible.org.com

IMAGES: Google Images

BIBLES: Life Application Bible, Serendipity Bible
Gateway (NIVUK) version used

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Bryanston Methodist Church, Jan – March 2019

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6. Minister to each other (pray and encourage)
7. Reach out: Discuss opportunities to SERVE and pray for SA, the government, BMC, and others.

This booklet offers devotions, background information and questions for reflection and discussion.

Small Group members are encouraged to read the devotions, investigate the background of the Biblical passages and prepare the answers to the questions assigned to each week.



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