



Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

**Sunday 10th January 2021 Prepared by
Rev'd Phillip Dixon and Joyce Wild.
"Who are you following?" Luke 9: 18-36**

This written worship sheet is for you to use as we gather to worship God. This Sunday we embark on a six week preaching series, using Luke's gospel, to hear what Jesus wants to tell us about being His disciples. I pray that we all gain fresh insight and understanding from the message Jesus provides us with. May His Holy Spirit be with each one of us in our homes guiding us to follow Him on the right path.

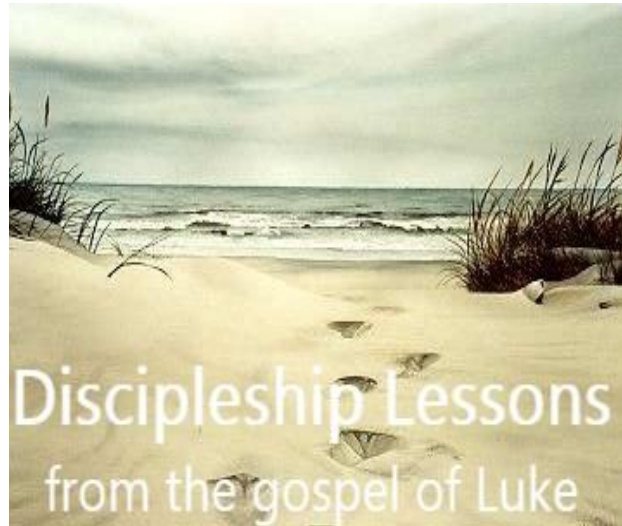
Opening words: Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "God's Messiah." Luke 9: 18-20 New International Version

Song: Holy Spirit. Sing/read /pray/
proclaim the words.

<https://youtu.be/I0YG3aol2hU>

There's nothing worth more
That could ever come close
No thing can compare
You're our living hope
Your presence, Lord
I've tasted and seen
Of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone
Your presence, Lord.



Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the
atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long
for. To be overcome by Your presence,
Lord, Your presence, Lord.

There's nothing worth more
That could ever come close
No thing can compare
You're our living hope
Your presence, Lord.

I've tasted and seen
Of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone
Your presence, Lord.

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the
atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long
for. To be overcome by Your presence,
Lord, Your presence, Lord.

Let us become more aware of Your presence

Let us experience the glory of Your goodness (Repeat x4)

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here

Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere

Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for. To be overcome by Your presence,

Lord Songwriters: Katie Torwalt / Bryan Wilson. This version sung by Francesca Battistelli.

Opening Prayer: Loving Lord we pray that You will today enlarge our vision of what is possible, equip and empower us by Your Holy Spirit to share the light and truth of who You are. We live in communities where so many people are lonely, depressed and often lack any real purpose or meaning in their lives. So many people know very little of who You really are or what little they do know is perhaps from childhood experiences or from unhelpful influences. Flood into our lives today Lord, we invite You to fill us afresh with Your Spirit so that we may be overflowing with Your love and so, as equipped disciples, be willing to share Your good news and give an account for our joy with everyone we meet, that they too may become disciples and experience You -the living God. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

Father, Your Word reminds us that You are light, as believing and committed disciples we must walk in Your light, not the darkness. Your Son came into a broken and cruel world, suffered and died to cleanse us, each one of us, once and for all of sin. So loving God. In the name of

Jesus, by His shedding of blood we come to you now, asking forgiveness for the times when our lives do not align with our profession of faith, when we harbour thoughts against others, when we do not do as You teach us to do when we love You but not Your teaching or Your commands. Inwardly we weep for our failings and we pray forgiveness for ourselves and those we represent.

We name the things that we bring, asking forgiveness for.....Thank you Lord for your gift of forgiveness and strengthen us for the journey ahead. **Amen**

Our Lord's Prayer (family prayer):

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn: My Jesus, my Saviour StF 363

Sing/read/pray/proclaim words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqSQvoinDE4&ab_channel=lauraahlooiscool

My Jesus, My Saviour
Lord there is none like you
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will
roar

At the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have
in You. Darlene Zschech (b1965)

Prayer: Loving Lord God, as we read Your Holy Word and the accompanying notes, we pray today that our hearts and minds will be fully open to hear what You are saying to us. May Your Word always be revelation, filled with fresh insight. **Amen**

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:18-36

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say I am?'

¹⁹ They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.'

²⁰ 'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?'

Peter answered, 'God's Messiah.'

²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²² And he said, 'The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.'

²³ Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What

good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

²⁷ 'Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.'

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 fulfilment 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.

NIV

A time to pause, read again, pray, and reflect.

Quotations concerning this passage:

“The transfiguration of Jesus is the one of the most mysterious parts of Jesus earthly ministry -an event that I prefer to observe in silence and reverence rather than comment over, it is one of the pinnacles, literally and spiritually, of the gospels”

Attributed as “a well know Bible commentator”.

“Self-denial is the first lesson in Christ’s school” Matthew Henry commenting on verses 23-26.

“Moses and Elijah were the King’s servants, but Jesus is the King’s Son. Moses and Elijah were the planets but Jesus is the sun, they were witnesses but He is the truth” J. C. Ryle.

“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ”. Dietrich Bonhoeffer commenting on verse 23.

“Consider the demands and rewards of being a true disciple. Do you live the way Jesus lived? Do you love the way He loved? Do you pray the way He prayed?”

Kyle Idleman

“Your will be done, on earth as in heaven”. Jesus teaching us to pray to the Father, based on the denial of self and the acceptance of obedience.

Reflection: Today’s reading from Luke’s Gospel begins with Jesus’ question to his disciples, “Who do you think I am” and it is here we get Peter’s famous response, “You the Christ of God.

Jesus then shocked his disciples by telling them that he would be put on trial, crucified and on the third day rise again. Then and only then, when they had witnessed those events, would they understand that he was the long awaited for Messiah. They would also learn what their role in his mission would be and when the time was right, he would equip

them to share the gospel message around the world.

Next, we have a turning point in Jesus’ instruction to his disciples. From that moment on he began teaching them clearly and specifically about what they could expect so they wouldn’t be surprised when it happened. He gave the disciples a foretaste of what following him would mean in their lives and in the lives of others who would come to know him as their personal saviour.

If they were to take up their cross then they would be identifying themselves completely with His message which may be costly, it may even lead to death. The shadow of the cross would be with Jesus’ followers as much as it was with Christ himself. Jesus wanted his followers to be become spiritual giants and not be dwarfed by self-centeredness. Painful and costly as it might be to follow Him, the reward would be eternal life.

Then just eight days after Peter’s revelation the transfiguration of Jesus takes place. On that mountain top the disciples receive the confirmation needed so they would know who the man they followed really was. God himself told them it was his Son and gave them instructions to listen to him.

Christ wanted his followers to understand that even though there would be awe inspiring moments in their walk with him they couldn’t linger on the mountain top as that would stop them from ministering to others. Faith must make sense off the mountain as well as on it.

As Christ’s disciples taking up our cross daily is about a personal relationship with Christ and having the confidence to know

exactly who he is. It's about reading and digesting his Word, listening, learning and growing in faith by imitating the master the best teacher anyone could ever ask for. And it's letting God's Holy Spirit guide us on our way so we can proclaim the gospel message our towns and cities. Following Christ can be costly, but Jesus asks no more of us than he did of himself.

So, a thought to ponder on. Do we merely offer lip service to Christ or are we willing to deny self, take up our cross and follow him wherever that may lead or whatever the cost? We each have a choice. What will it be for you? **Amen.** Joyce Wild

Discipleship: Discipleship is a good thing: something to seek and make an effort for like food and shelter. It takes guts and gumption to follow Jesus when called, to leave that net or field or family and press forward for a high ideal.

Jesus loved his twelve disciples as the Christ loves you today...

He rejoiced in their breakthroughs: "Upon this rock I will build my church!" "Blessed are your eyes for they see and your ears for they hear."

And he forgave them their failings: one betrayed him for money and hung himself from a tree, one denied him three times and balked at having his feet washed claiming to be unworthy, some fled and others slept, not able to watch with him one hour.

He rebuked them and questioned them but he also encouraged them, saying: "Have faith as a grain of mustard seed and you can move mountains."

"I don't call you servants, I call you friends."
"The Kingdom of Heaven is within you."
"Fear Not." "Feed my lambs."

Sometimes it gets messy when you bake a cake or build a house and maybe that is how it should be. It is a process, a labour of love. It will be all cleaned up when it is finished.

And in the meantime, if you make a mistake like cutting off the ear of the priest's servant, the Christ will patiently fix it, without even bending over to pick up the pieces.

So perfectionism is not required; since it all will be worked out, step by step, as we remember the lilies of the field that toil not while they effortlessly glorify God.

Polly Castor

Prayers of Intercession: Father, we pray for the whole church, which you called into being through your Son. We are aware that it is always your intention that your church should be a blessing to all people everywhere. We ask that by your Holy Spirit your church may be daily renewed and empowered for the task for which you gave it life.

We pray, Father, that we and all our fellow Christians may be ready for any sacrifice and action, any declaration that will clearly demonstrate faith, hope and love to our neighbours, our family and our friends and to those with whom we meet on the journey of life each day.

We pray for Christians who have trusted you, and for whom obedience has brought

sorrow and loss; for those who, as an act of discipleship, have felt led to involvement in feeding the hungry, seeking the lost, healing the broken or enabling the defeated.

We pray for those whose faith has lost meaning, whose worship is all ritual and empty words; for those who are no longer aware of your presence, your power or your love; for those who see only hurt and the pain and the darkness of life. We ask that they may see the joy and the goodness and the Light of Christ in their lives.

We pray for those we know who have been reduced to despair; for those whose joy has been crushed by the indifference of others; for those who have suffered great grief, who are left numb by sorrow and loss; for those still overwhelmed by the separation death brings from someone they loved and who loved them.

We pray for ourselves, in the face of our current restrictions all of life's uncertainties, anxieties, loneliness, sorrows, hurts, disappointments and failures, we ask that the assurance of Christ's presence, power and love may give us strength, hope and faith. **Amen**

David Clowes –500 Prayers for all Occasions.

Closing Song: I have decided to follow Jesus. Sing/read/pray/proclaim words.

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
no turning back, no turning back.

S. Sundar Singh

Good News for 2021:

Good news that Christ is our rescuer and our future is secure.

Good news that we can still meet as church, even from home.

Good news that the world is recognizing that life is more fragile than they thought.

Good news that many are more open to God in testing times.

Good news that many are searching for God. The fields are white unto harvest.

Good news that God has answers to the questions that people are asking.

Good news that He has called us to be light in the darkness.

Good news that 2021 has the potential to be a great year of growth for each of us.

Pastor Ian Brayshaw, contributed by Anne Henderson UCB

Benediction: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, The Lord look lovingly on you and grant you peace.

Amen.

Phillip Dixon, January 2021. YouTube links are external resources and are provided to help you engage with the songs. Singing the Faith and Hymns and Psalms resources are provided under license: CCLI 178182