



**9 MARCH, 2025**



## Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

## Lectionary Readings

### This week 9 March, 2025

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

### Next week 16 March, 2025

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17 -4:1  
Luke 13:31-35 or  
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

## Poem

### "I No Longer Pray for Peace"

On the edge of war,  
one foot already in,  
I no longer pray for peace:  
I pray for miracles.  
I pray that stone hearts will turn  
to tender-heartedness,  
and evil intentions will turn  
to mercifulness,  
and all the soldiers already deployed  
will be snatched out of harm's way,  
and the whole world will be  
astounded onto its knees.  
I pray that all the "God talk"  
will take bones,  
and stand up and shed  
its cloak of faithlessness,  
and walk again in its powerful truth.  
I pray that the whole world might  
sit down together and share  
its bread and its wine.

Some say there is no hope,  
but then I've always applauded the  
holy fools  
who never seem to give up on  
the scandalousness of our faith:  
that we are loved by God.....  
that we can truly love one another.  
I no longer pray for peace:  
I pray for miracles.  
- Poem by Ann Weems



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## **The Law of the Old Covenant and its fulfilment in Jesus.**

Last week in worship we heard 2 Corinthians 3:12-18.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. <sup>13</sup> We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. <sup>15</sup> Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. <sup>16</sup> But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

This is a complex and confusing passage of scripture that requires some background insights. In this letter St. Paul addresses an early church of mainly Jewish Christians, believers who knew the stories of their cultural and religious traditions by heart. As children they would have heard the stories about Moses speaking with God face to face. These encounters caused Moses' face to shine so brightly that the people "were afraid to come near him." (Exodus 34). We are told in Exodus that after speaking to the people all aglow, Moses then covered his face with a veil. Moses only removed the veil when he was all alone with God, and we can only assume this topped up the supernatural illumination of his face. Paul tells us that Moses needed the veil "to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away". (2 Cor 3:13).

We as believers in Christ are not like Moses who only reflected God's glory for a short time. In Jesus Christ we are always being transformed to reflect his glorious image. We may not shine outwardly like Moses but we do shine the light of God's love from the inside out. We are transformed by the Spirit and are blessed to know God fully and plainly revealed in Christ.

In the times of the Old Covenant God's glory was revealed to the people through the Law and the Prophets. St. Paul describes this as seeing God through veil, the veil that Christ removes.

Next week we will look at the purpose of the Law and the Prophets and how that purpose is fulfilled in Christ.