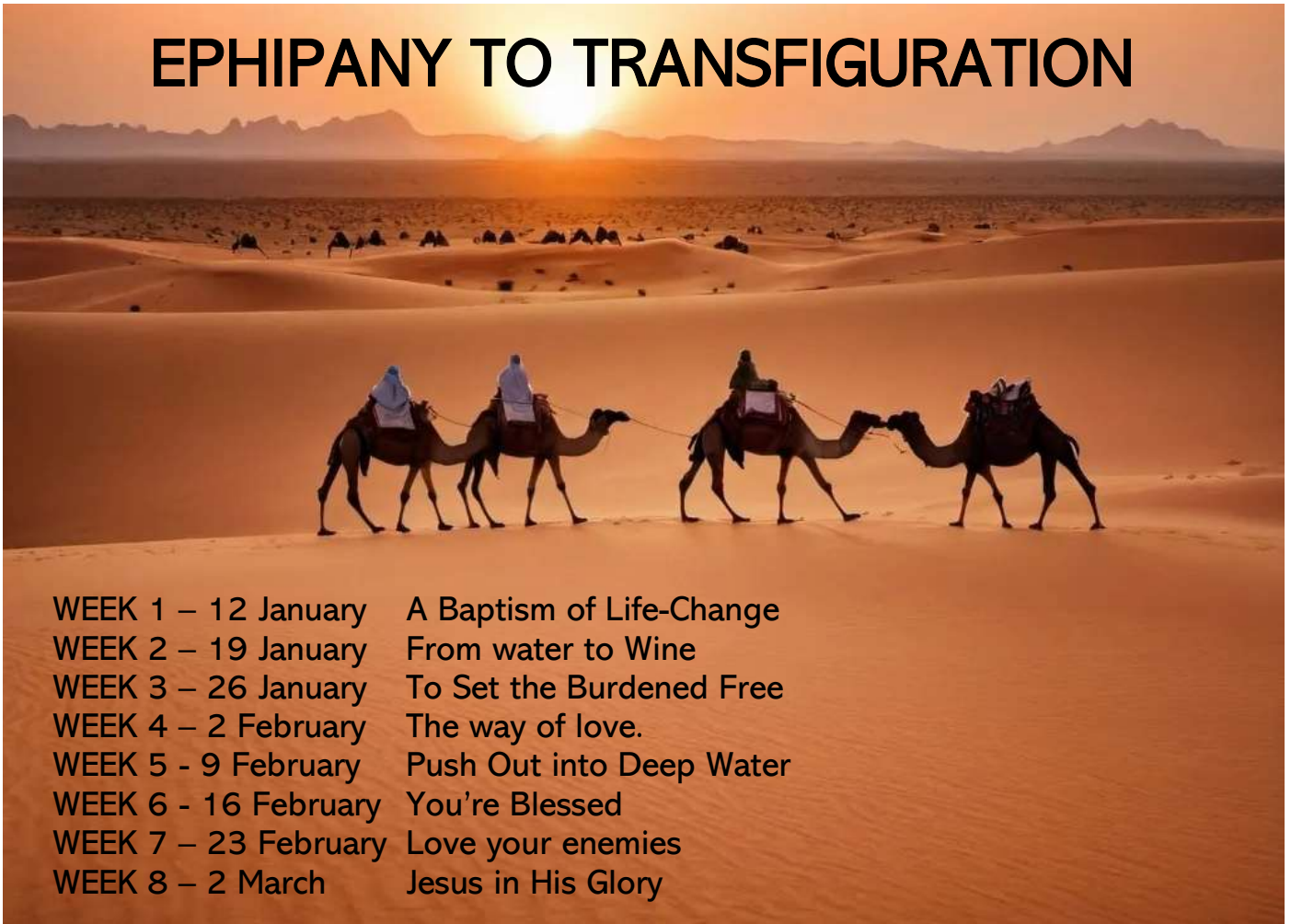
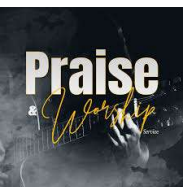


EPHIPANY TO TRANSFIGURATION



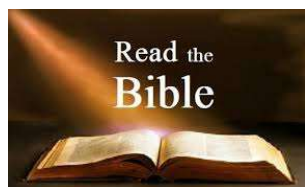
WEEK 1 – 12 January	A Baptism of Life-Change
WEEK 2 – 19 January	From water to Wine
WEEK 3 – 26 January	To Set the Burdened Free
WEEK 4 – 2 February	The way of love.
WEEK 5 - 9 February	Push Out into Deep Water
WEEK 6 - 16 February	You're Blessed
WEEK 7 – 23 February	Love your enemies
WEEK 8 – 2 March	Jesus in His Glory

We welcome you joining us on the Liturgical journey from Epiphany to Transfiguration Sunday. This material reflects the Sunday sermons ensuring the whole church are on the same page and can take the learnings deeper with scripture readings, daily devotions and questions for group discussions. May you draw closer to God whilst learning His truths, find the journey transformative and experience God's love for you in a very deep and real way.



Song: Susan Boyle – Make me a channel of your peace -
https://youtu.be/7mxO_dsvHew?si=mFpTYbU1jlvnDSRB

WEEK 4 2 FEBRUARY - The way of love.



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

1 Corinthians 13 The Message

The Way of Love

13 If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.² If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.³⁻⁷ If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love. Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins

of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end. ⁸⁻¹⁰ Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.¹¹ When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.¹² We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!¹³ But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.



Monday, February 03: Psalm 56; 1 Kings 17:8-16; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16;

Tuesday, February 04: Psalm 56; 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 14:13-25;

Wednesday, February 05: Psalm 56; Jeremiah 1:11-19; Luke 19:41-44;

Thursday, February 06: Psalm 138; Numbers 20:22-29; Acts 9:19b-25;

Friday, February 07: Psalm 138; Numbers 27:12-23; Acts 9:26-31;

Saturday, February 08: Psalm 138; Judges 3:7-11; Luke 4:42-44;



This week was written by:

YVONNE ROBERG (Local Preacher)

Although Scripture teaches that we are to desire spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit, the word of God first and foremost commands us to pursue love (1 Cor 14:1) and then desire the spiritual gifts. Pursue (δύωκω in Greek) means *"to do something with intense effort and with a definite purpose or goal."* (BDAG 662) Thus, the seeking out of spiritual gifts should be secondary to believers pursuing the excellent or supreme way of love (1 Cor 12:31a). Love, rather than the ability to perform spiritual wonders is a sign that God is truly working in us.

Jesus commands us to love God and each other (Matt 22: 30–31), and love really does permeate the New Testament:

- *"Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."* (1 John 4:7 NIV)
- *"Let all that you do be done in love."* (1 Cor 16:14 ESV)
- *"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony."* (Col 3:14 NLT)

Smith notes that love is the essence of Christian character and that the other eight fruits of the Spirit radiate from the love that believers reflect on their journey towards Christlikeness. Galatians 5:22–23 teaches that the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When we walk by the Spirit these fruits become evident in our lives and attest to others that God is indeed working in and through us.

Paul teaches that spiritual gifts – speaking in tongues, prophecy, understanding, knowledge, faith that can move mountains, the generous giving of possessions and even of one's body (martyrdom) all profit a believer nothing if these acts are performed without the motive and attitude of love. (1 Cor 13:1–3) The heart behind the action matters. In Matthew 7:15 Jesus warns his followers that even though people prophesy, cast out demons, and perform many wonders in his name, they do not necessarily know him nor belong to him. Rather, evidence of belonging to Christ is found in the fruit that our lives produce, not the spiritual gifts we exercise. Jesus highlighted that love would be the very trait that would be the means through which his true disciples would be recognized (John 13:34b–35). Wesley notes that *"love accompanies to, and adorns us in, eternity; it prepares us for and constitutes heaven."* It is love—not faith, not hope, and not the spiritual gifts that we endeavor to attain— that will be found to be stronger than death (Song 8:6), and at home in eternity (1 Cor 13:8).

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Of all the spiritual gifts you pursue, is love one of them? Explain your answer.
2. Is there anyone whom you are challenged by God's word today to love?
3. How can God help you to love others better?
4. If you personally need to feel loved, is there someone you can reach out to?



FAMILY TIME:

Written by Jenny Blake
CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Week 4 - The Way of Love

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Key Verse: *"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."* (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Introduction

What's the most important thing in the world? Is it being smart, talented, or strong? The Bible tells us the greatest thing we can have is love. But love isn't just about feelings—it's about how we treat others.

Bible Story Recap

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth to explain what real love looks like. It's not just saying nice words or doing impressive things. Real love is patient and kind. It doesn't get jealous or angry, and it always protects, trusts, hopes, and keeps going.

Paul reminds us that while many things in life change or fade away, love lasts forever because it comes from God.

Family Discussion

1. **What does love look like in action?**
Talk about examples of love in your family or community, like helping each other or forgiving mistakes.
2. **Why do you think Paul says love is greater than faith and hope?**
Discuss how love is the way we show our faith and bring hope to others.
3. **How can we practice love this week?**
Share one way to be more patient, kind, or forgiving in your family or with friends.

Activity: Love in Motion

Write "LOVE" vertically on a piece of paper. For each letter, think of an action you can take to show love (e.g., **L**isten to others, **O**ffer help, **V**alue everyone, **E**xpress kindness). Put it somewhere visible and check off the actions you do throughout the week.

Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for showing us what real love is through Jesus. Help us to be patient and kind and to love others the way You love us. Show us how to live in the way of love every day. Amen."