

**Lectionary readings: Exodus 34: 29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3: 12 -4: 2 ; Luke 9: 28-36**

**For reflection and prayer**

- **Exodus 34:** Moses' face was radiant when he came from the presence of the Lord. I wonder if our faces shine when we have met with God in prayer or worship? I wonder if God's presence shines out of us? How much time do we spend with God each day, each week? God longs for our friendship, longs for our companionship. We might like to reflect on how we might make more room for God in our lives.
- **Psalm 99:** Here are excerpts from 'Psalms for Praying': *'Awaken, O you people. Entrust your hearts to Love .... Open your hearts to the Beloved. Many who have gone before you followed the Beloved's Voice .... They surrendered themselves into the Beloved's hands and walked with confidence. They were guided through difficult times, keeping to Love's way and trusting in Love's promises. O Heart of all hearts, You answered their prayers ... You forgave them ... always inviting them to new life .... Holy are You, O Giver of Life.'* God is always inviting us to new life and that involves change. We are invited to awaken to the power of Love within us, to open our hearts to the Beloved. Every moment the invitation is given and God waits for our response.
- **2 Corinthians 3-4:** Two verses stand out for me in this passage - v17-18 The Message: *'God is a living, personal Presence .... Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives*

*gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.'* This passage also speaks of our transformation, our becoming like Jesus. This is our calling.

- **Luke 9:** This is the account of Jesus being seen in all His glory while in prayer on the mountain. This is a visionary experience, a deep spiritual experience. Surely it was a time to be silent in the presence of awe and wonder and deep mystery. But Peter - so like us wanting to fill every silence because we find silence unnerving - blurted out words about building memorials to contain the experience. Later they found it too deep an experience to share, impossible to put into words. Have you had an experience like that when you were aware of an unseen Presence and yet you couldn't quite understand or make sense of what was happening to you? What part does silence play in your life? Are you happy with silence, or does it make you feel uncomfortable? The disciples had that awesome experience because they were willing to spend time with Jesus and they responded to His invitation to accompany Him. How much time do we spend with Jesus? We might regard ourselves as people who are happier doing than being. Are we slaves to doing? The disciples had their perception of Jesus changed that day. Are we open to having our perception of God changed? Or are we stuck with the image of God we grew up with? How can we allow our times with God to be more healing, inspiring, empowering, life-changing?

**A prayer**

Lord, may we allow You to transfigure our lives with the glory of Your presence so that our lives will be radiant with Your beauty.