Dear friend
First a couple of hymns that fit the theme of the transfiguration.

‘Christ whose glory fills the skies’, sung to Ratisbon by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, with lyrics to join in:
https://youtu.be/Xr7IYNgy0mE

A big sing of Kendrick’s ‘Lord, the light of your love/Shine Jesus shine’, from the Royal Albert Hall:
https://youtu.be/D4hXJ9ax2FY

This week’s splendid contribution from Martin. ‘If God is for us, who can be against us? / Nothing but the blood’ by Casey J.
Casey J offers a warm and meditative anthem of hope and faith entitled, "If God." The beautiful ballad segues into the spiritual hymn, "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus."
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaS59ddVkao

Finally, as we pray for the people of Ukraine, here are a couple of gentle pieces by the leading contemporary Ukranian composer Valentin Silvestrov. ‘A quiet night’, one of his Christmas lullabies:
https://youtu.be/rIcT-Q3dtwQ

and his Prayer for Ukraine, written after witnessing the brutal suppression of peaceful demonstrations in Majdan Square, Kiev, a few years ago:
https://youtu.be/YuzS_ZS2czY

Let us continue to pray that peace will return in that troubled area.
Chris

VIRTUAL SERVICE 27.02.22
THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

O God, your immensity fills the earth and the whole universe, but the universe itself cannot contain you, much less the earth, and still less the world of my thoughts. *Yves Raquin.*

CONFESSION Lord Jesus, we blush with shame, for though we are the objects of your heart's delight, we wound and pierce you daily by our sins. To our shame we count you unworthy of us, though we are poor, base, little selves….*Oh, the infinite grace of your heart! Rather than lose us, you took our place, our nature, our guilt and, yes, our sins as well, upon your holy, harmless, spotless Self!*
Anne Dutton.

COLLECT Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross; give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READING Luke 9.28-36.

REFLECTION After staggering, panting, up a steep slope, the view from the top can be exhilarating (if it isn't misty or pelting with rain), giving us a glimpse of the majesty of God's created world. If we are physically unable to climb, we can sense a "mountain-top" experience, a glimpse of heaven, from spring flowers, a piece of music, a radiant smile or a loving act. When the exhausted Peter saw Jesus transformed in glory, talking to Moses and Elijah, he wanted to preserve, to enshrine, that special moment. But we mortals cannot contain God, who may be hidden by clouds, but who is present with us in the despair of dark valleys as well as on the sunny highlands. Jesus was discussing his impending death, a necessary step before his rising again in glory.
Luke points out that Jesus was praying before these events took place, just as he prayed before a voice spoke to him at his baptism. Prayer in stillness can allow us to contemplate, and to listen to, God. We can sometimes be too busy, even doing what we perceive to be God's work; we can be too busy speaking to God, to allow him to speak to us in moments of silent worship.

PRAYERS We thank you, Lord, for the beauty, the grandeur, the intricacy of your created world. Help us to treat it with respect.
We thank you for the love of family and friends, for the sacrifices they make for us, and above all for your sacrificial love to us.
We pray for the troubled nations of this world, especially the peoples of Ukraine and Russia, living in fear and uncertainty.
Comfort and heal all who are sick or in any way distressed, those in pain, those awaiting diagnostic or therapeutic procedures, those who have to come to terms with bad news.
Especially we bring to your loving arms…….
Help us to listen to you speaking to us, to be prepared to serve you as you would wish. Let us wait upon God in a moment of silence……



Transfiguration of Christ: Raphael

We say the **LORD'S PRAYER**
We share **THE GRACE**

FINAL PRAYER
We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, in all the

churches of the whole world and we bless you, for by the means of your holy cross you have redeemed the world. *St.Francis of Assisi*