

## Transfiguration – Luke 6:28-36 – Family Communion, February 2019

Today's readings come together as we think about different glimpses of God's glory. Moses and Jesus on mountain top moments of special blessings and instructions that strengthen them for what is to come – both transfigured in glory.

But also – it is about God being down in the ordinary – Jesus comes down from the mountain doesn't he? We hear about what happens when Jesus encourages Peter, James and John to pray with him – and Paul writes about the presence of the Holy Spirit in us that can renew and transform us and how the more we pray and deepen our walk with God – the more the Holy Spirit can renew, transform and spill out into our lives, transforming us into the people God wants us to be.

We will think about listening in prayer; listening in moments of special encounter; listening in ordinary life and how listening can be transformational – life-giving and life-changing.

So - Imagine the climb, right to the top of a mountain. Imagine being Peter James or John when Jesus' face began to look different and his clothes became dazzling white.

Then - Suddenly, seeing Moses and Elijah, talking to Jesus about how he would carry out God's plan by dying in Jerusalem.

Imagine the disciples' confusion in their sleepiness – not knowing what to say.

And you can count on Peter - 'Master, it's good for us to be here. Why don't we build three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah?'

Imagine the disciples' terror when suddenly a cloud appeared and overshadowed them. They heard a voice coming from the cloud, 'This is my Son, my chosen one. Listen to him!' Then, just as suddenly, Jesus and his disciples were alone again.

Imagine the disciples' wonder at what had just happened. They kept quiet and told no one about what they had seen....

Have a listen: Sound of silence – 1<sup>st</sup> verse –

There may be occasions when God speaks to us and we are not paying attention or listening. – HEARING WITHOUT LISTENING....

Have you listened to what was really happening in this story? TRANSFIGURATION is not about changing one creature to another, but about Jesus being changed to look as he does in heaven – full of glory and light.

You all have some glow stars – hide them under your coat or jacket and see how they glow. That's because they have been kept in the daylight enough to be charged with the light-force. They will not shine if they have not been in the light during the day. The star needs to be in the presence of light to enable it to shine when the light is no longer there. It needs to do this again and again. Maybe we are a bit like that. When we pray and spend time with God, we are renewed or energised by his Spirit. And just like the star, we have to do this regularly – again and again. Give everyone a star as a reminder to spend time with and be 'energised' by God every day.

Now let's look at the disciples - fighting the urge to sleep. Are they being tested? DO YOU REMEMBER ANOTHER TIME WHEN THESE THREE DISCIPLES WERE SLEEPING? I wonder how well do we cope

with being baffled, blinded, pushed out of our comfort zone? How well does our faith stand up to the test of being confronted with events, situations, dilemmas beyond our powers of understanding?

Peter, James and John were being shown a bit more of the Jesus-story – and glory. Just enough to keep them going. And today we too are seeing more...

And of course, you can rely on Peter to say the right thing – ‘Lord it is good to be here – SO FAR SO GOOD THEN... ‘ Let us build three shelters – one for each of you’ – oops!

Why did Peter say that? Because shelter keeps you safe in the scariness of being covered by clouds representing a divine presence – or seeing old prophets like Elijah and Moses – or hearing God’s voice through the clouds – and of course, seeing beloved Jesus dazzled and shiny bright?

Or perhaps Peter wanted to hold onto the glory, he wanted to contain it by building tents for Jesus, Elijah and Moses. He was afraid he would lose the power. We need to hang onto Jesus, not the power and the glory. Making tents is like making churches. We sometimes put all our efforts into bricks and mortar, rather than focusing on Jesus.

BUT REMEMBER Jesus comes down from the mountain and immediately heals someone – he left the holy mountain - HE LEFT THE HOLY MOUNTAIN - The transfiguration didn’t stop Jesus doing his ministry, doing what God had called him to do. And as we leave our holy place – our church – we are called to leave here – be sent out – to do what God wants us to do in our faithful love for him.

I wonder - do we get caught up in the moment, as the disciples did, and stop doing what we are called to? What are you going to do when you leave this place?

Let’s think about our prayer life during this coming Lent – are we putting time aside to listen to God – or just be with him – how do we do it at work – on the train – doing the dishes? – God will reveal himself to us in the ordinary – and show us how to reveal him in the ordinary through the spirit of Jesus within us, spilling over as we make way for him to do so.

And finally, we have to remember the words that God said to the disciples through the clouds – ‘This is my Son, my chosen – *listen to him!*’ – He didn’t say ‘talk to him’ but listen...

So as we leave our holy place – our church – and are sent out, let us be mindful that we don’t get caught up in the moment, as the disciples did, and stop doing what we are called to do – to share with others the good news of the Gospel message of love and hospitality – of hope and encouragement.

**Let us pray:**

Loving God, father of the light of the world, transfigured and transfiguring:  
we praise and adore you for all the glimpses of your radiance with which you bless us:  
on mountain tops, in darkness; in stillness, in suddenness, in one another.  
May the strength of your gentleness sink deep within us;  
your dazzling presence sustain us;  
the freshness of your agelessness inspire us  
and the simplicity of your loveliness move us,  
that we may be warmed by the tiniest flame,  
rejoice at the tiniest star and see your magnificence in the tiniest reflection of your glory. Amen.