



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY SUNDAY BEFORE LENT – SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2021

As we are unable to meet together in church, this service will give you an outline of a service you can do at home. If you have them, gather a few things that will help you create a sacred space – we suggest a cross, Bible and candle.



INTRODUCTION

This week is the Sunday before Lent and it brings Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, It is also Transfiguration Sunday. A bit of a different start to Lent as we will miss our fun, get together at Alison and Arthur's house for our Pancake evening. The team are putting together a programme for Lent starting with Ash Wednesday and the clergy will have something to send out each week for you to contemplate on. You will hopefully receive an Ash Wednesday card, the idea and prayers done by Rev. Carol and put together by the Haslam family. It will be all hands on deck to deliver these to you but Chris's delivery team and others will hopefully be coming your way.

We have decide to do our Lent study group again as Rev. Jan used to do, but obviously we can't meet together so we will try and do it by zoom, it is important that if you wish to join us you book on it with Jo Haslam you can call/text her on 01204 592748 or 07872993104. They start on Thursday 25th Feb for 4 weeks I will use the diocese course and if you join, will send you the link so that you can follow it with us. Obviously, I will only run it if you want it but I thought it may be one way for us to keep together.

We are awaiting Government and diocesan guidelines re Covid and church openings after the government announcement on the 22nd February and we have decided to have an emergency PCC meeting on the 23rd February so we can plan a way forward. Rev Canon Peter has asked us to do this and we will then feed back to the team and make our decision from there.

So there is a lot going on even if it doesn't seem it. Hang on in there and remember those options Jo published about things we could do to stay connected and let us know if you want to do any of them.

Today's reflection is by myself. Stay safe

Jan B.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Let us take time to reflect on the last week and say sorry to God for the things we have done or not done.

Almighty God our heavenly Father we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.



GLORIA



Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth. Lord God heavenly King almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ only Son of the Father, Lord God Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world; have mercy upon us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit. In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE 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 for ever.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING - KINGS 2, 1-12

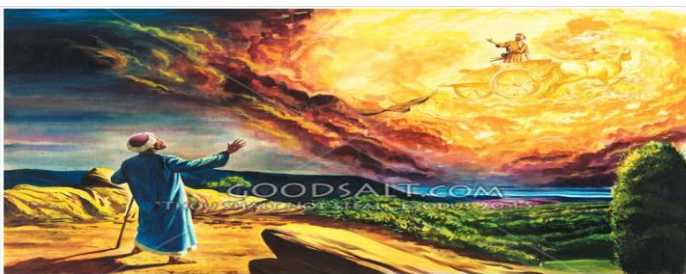
Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

This is the word of the Lord – Thanks be to God



THE NEW TESTAMENT READING - 2 CORINTHIANS 4, 3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we

do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord – Thanks be to God

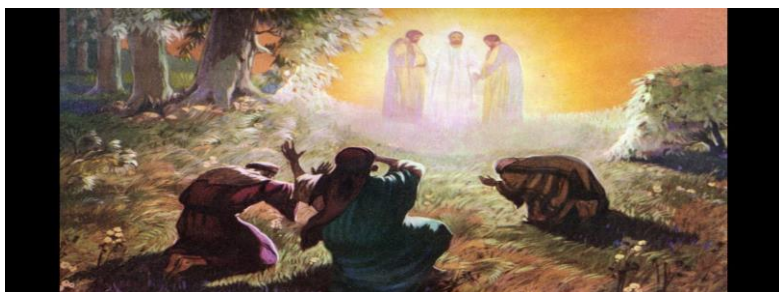
THE GOSPEL - MARK 9, 2-9

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark – **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord – Praise to you O Christ.



REFLECTION

The readings today are very closely linked and carefully put together. The Old Testament reading from Kings, tells of the story of Elijah's death and faithful following of Elisha, it was in fact a funeral procession. Elijah was trying to get rid of Elisha by moving around from Bethel to Jericho and then to Jordan, in each of these places they met prophets who wanted to tell him of Elijah's forthcoming death, but he knew and told them to be silent. He must have felt desperate and upset, why was Elijah trying to get rid of him? He was faithful and devoted to him and had given up his family to be with him. Eventually he was rewarded with the vision of seeing the chariots and horses taking Elijah to God's kingdom and he did receive Elijah's powers to do God's work.

In the Gospel reading Peter, James and John are taken to a high mountain by Jesus and they witness a fantastic sight of Jesus glowing brightly and talking to Moses and

Elijah. Peter is his usual impetuous self and immediately wants to build temples to them so that everyone will now know that Jesus was indeed the Messiah and non-believers would know it too. However, they are told to be quiet and say nothing of this until after his death and resurrection.

This must have been devastating and confusing for the disciples, they have now been told that Jesus was going to suffer and die, which means they will be left alone without guidance or their beloved leader. However, Jesus is preparing them for what was to come. They know as Elisha did that they must follow their master and do his work and knowing the scriptures they must have realised that what was to come would not be easy.

So why not tell everyone, surely more people would have believed that Jesus was the Messiah and it may have saved his life. Obviously, that was not God's plan and Jesus would not have died to forgive us our sins and grant us eternal life if they had gone against his will.

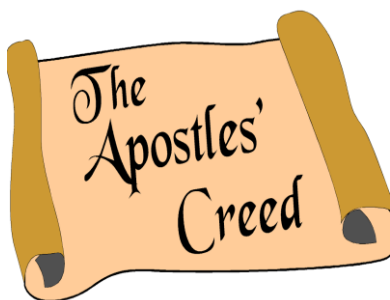
The New Testament reading tries to explain this by saying that a veil is covering the Gospel to non-believers and the only way to see it is by a light shining in the darkness and that light is Jesus, Jesus is the way the truth and the light, which is what Chris, wrote about last week.

I hope you are able to see the light in the current situation, please, please contact us if you need to, even if you don't want to join the lent group maybe you fancy a chat on the phone or a cuppa and cake chat on a zoom link. You are probably doing this already but let's do God's work by looking out for each other and helping others to get through this tough time. Take care and hope to see you soon.

God bless

Jan B

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH



I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



During the intercessions, we pray for the church, our country, our government, people in difficulty and those who have died. You can use your own prayers or if you prefer here are some on today's theme.

Blessed are you Lord God our Father. You have revealed your hidden glory in the face of our Lord Jesus Christ; in Christ, you have given us hope of eternal life.

Bless your church, O Lord with the radiance of your presence. In each place of worship may we bow before your glory. We ask you to transform with your brightness all those places where worship appears to be dull or lifeless. May we be guided and blessed by your love as we try to spread your worship throughout the season of Lent in these challenging circumstances. We ask especially for your blessing on all clergy and lay ministry teams within our Turton Moorland churches.

Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayers

Lord of light, transform the dark places in the world by your presence. We remember those who live in slums and shantytowns, all who live among war and dereliction. Let the radiance of your presence bring hope to their lives.

Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayers

Glorious God, fill our homes with your love and our lives with your glory. Be with us and all our loved ones and deliver us from darkness.

Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayers

We remember all who suffer, all who are in hospital, all who are lonely and feel rejected, all whose lives are in a dark cloud. We think of those that are fearful of the future and those whose lives are full of sadness. Especially today, we pray for

Rachel Greaves (and anyone else known to us) Lord, may the light of your love transform their lives.

Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayers

Lord hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ especially from our book of remembrance, Louie Greenhalgh (and anyone else known to us). Give us a glimpse of your glory and awareness of your gift of eternal life. As we rejoice in the fellowship of St. Maxentius, St. Anne, St. Peter and all your saints, grant to our loved ones departed the joy and glory of your kingdom.

Merciful father –accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be one, on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless us and watch over us, the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us, the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace; and blessing of God almighty, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord – In the name of Christ. Amen

