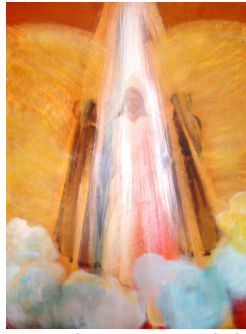


The Transfiguration - Reflection Service



(image:standrews episcopal church)

We take a breath and come into God's presence.

Holy Spirit draw us close and minister your grace to us. May we recognise your presence in our midst. **Amen.**

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.**

Kyrie Confession

Your unfailing kindness, O Lord, is in the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds:
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
and your justice as the great deep:
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

For with you is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light:
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Bible Reading: Mark 9:2-9

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 tents, 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.

Reflection

The disciples and Jesus have been ministering for days. They were likely tired and dusty in the heat. Jesus has been teaching his disciples just as he has the crowds about the kingdom of God. More specifically he has been reminding them of all they have seen and witnessed. He is preparing them for the great suffering he is to endure and has been asking them 'Who do people say that I am?' And more importantly directly to them 'Who do you (who have known me) say that I am?'

It is with this background that they approach the mountain top and 'Wow!' something incredible happens! Jesus is transfigured there before them. His face becomes like the shining sun. His clothes appear dazzling white. He is no longer the dusty 'one of them'. He is seen in his full diverse multidimensional being. His divinity becomes clear before them. He truly is the Son of God. And if that wasn't enough the long ago prophets Moses and Elijah appear! I love that glimpse of God and of entwining eternity.

Moses who wasn't allowed to set foot on the promised land you may remember is not just there now but he is with the glory of God!

What a vision, what a moment! And even as they try to hold on to the moment 'let us put up tents (for you to stay)' the mystical moment passes, and they are urged not to tell of it until after Jesus' death.

For a moment they see Jesus as Jesus is. A wonderful moment for them, and I am sure for Jesus too. It feels good when we feel seen and understood and accepted for who we are. I am sure it was no different for Jesus. He offered them a true glimpse of the complexity of who he was - fully human and fully part of the Holy Trinity of God.

We can always show ourselves fully to God 'who gets us'. Who gets the multifaceted nature of all of our beings and identity. The nature of God cannot be easily described or boxed – with 'a tent' or anything else – and this should encourage us to try not to box in or prescribe others identities either. We - trans, binary, gay, straight, black, white, brown, with- without visible or non-visible disabilities are after all created beautifully diversely in God's image. Let's celebrate the diversity of one another. As we celebrate and give thanks for a God who comes to us and who shows us the beautiful powerful indescribable nature of God.

Jesus' transfiguration reminds us of who Jesus is. It reminds us of the mission he has ahead that will lead him out of love for us to the cross, and then to his glorious resurrection and ascension – back to that glory which is shown today. It is good to ponder on all of these things as we begin Wednesday our journey of Lent.

Reflecting perhaps on the question Jesus asked of his disciples 'Who do you say that I am?'

Amen.

Worship Music

Alleluia Sing to Jesus:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJDWFYIkBns&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches

Be Thou my Vision:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxvXGgSIRcs&ab_channel=HymnChannel

Holy, Holy, Holy:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgHrNNM23p8&ab_channel=AudreyAssad

Crown Him with Many Crowns:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YJnVN6wdvI&ab_channel=THENBA

Amazing Grace – Lucy Gibson (attached)

Sharing of the Peace

Christ will transfigure our human body and give it a form like that of his own glorious body. We are the body of Christ. We share God's peace. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Almighty God, Holy One, Creator of all we praise and magnify you.

Thank-you for coming to us and displaying your glory for us to see.

Thank-you for the beauty and diversity of your people and our world;

For your faithfulness and care through-out all generations, times and seasons.

Amen.

We pray for all who have been hospitalised, and for those who care so diligently for them. For health and hospital staff, emergency services and carers.

For those who have had lifesaving and pain diminishing surgery postponed, for those with long Covid and chronic pain.

We give thanks for the vaccines and the hope they are bringing.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for our churches and communities.

For schools and colleges may half term bring rest and refreshment.

For those feeling overwhelmed.

Those whose mental health is strained.

Those feeling alone and missing physical contact.

Those abused and discriminated against.

For those who are homeless.

Those in poverty, and those who seek to address it.

Those struggling to find work. Those who have lost jobs and businesses, and those in financial insecurity.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for our government and world leaders.

May those in positions of power lead with integrity,

and a desire to serve as servants after God's own heart.

For peace in Syria, Myanmar, Yemen and Mozambique.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind and spirit

Heal, hold and comfort them with your presence
and be with those who tend and worry for them.

Give peace in grief, and welcome all those recently departed
into your loving eternal kingdom where pain and tears are no more.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

We take a moment to lift the prayers of our own hearts before God

We commend ourselves and the whole of creation to God's unfailing love. **Amen.**

Joining all our prayers together we say the prayer our saviour taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven;
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and those whom you love always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**