



Transfiguration Sunday

Sermon by Revd Allie Josseph



Sunday 14 February 2021

READINGS

2 Kings 2: 1-12; Psalm 50: 1-6; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9

From Epiphany to Transfiguration

I take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Transfiguration Sunday, I almost said, St. Valentine's day. But that too. May you have a blessed Sunday. It is the last Sunday before Lent, if it were not for COVID 19 we would have had Shrove Tuesday, with all the delicious food prepared by our fellow parishioners. Together we pray we will have fellowship again soon.

Epiphany

Today is the last Sunday after Epiphany. We remember the three wise men from the east coming to see the new-born King of the Jews. One of my favourite definitions of the word epiphany is; **an epiphany occurs where the words and music 'speak to you', becoming something more than the sum of their parts.**

Transfiguration

Like with epiphany, today we celebrate another important occasion in Jesus' life, something called the transfiguration, another challenging word, the Cambridge English Dictionary defines transfiguration as: **the act or process of transfiguring someone or something changing their appearance very much, especially in a spiritual way.**

The approaching season of lent, is a time of repentance, marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We reflect on what this will mean for each of us. Next week is Ash Wednesday. Today we are invited to come full circle, like the disciples Jesus chose to go up the mountain with him. To behold the glory of God and see Jesus transfigured, from the inside, Jesus who was seen by his disciples as a man reveals his true nature, he shows them who he really is. He holds up a mirror and asks you and I, do you know who you are? Not as you or people out there see you, but do you know how I see you, how I love you?

When the disciples hear the words of God: this is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased, they have their epiphany, all that they heard and witnessed in the presence of Jesus, becomes clear to them. They recognise their saviour. And then they hear the command from God: listen to Him.

When I think of the epiphany, I am reminded of the night pope Francis was elected, when he spoke to us in his very familiar tone: Good evening brothers and sisters! Then he said something very significant. "My

brother cardinals went to the end of the world to find you a bishop Rome.” In this moment he did not only acknowledge where he came from but who he became. From epiphany to transfiguration.

We could spend this sermon, talking about the weight and the wait of the glory of God, we can talk of the disciples and their inability to stay awake at crucial moments or we can talk of the impulsivity of Peter, we could talk of the significant words coming out of heaven confirming Jesus as the beloved son in whom God is well pleased.

We could, but we are not.

I invite you to think about what makes sense to you, and how you try to make sense to others. Let us talk about navigating the great unknown of self-revelation and self-actualisation. Who are you? How is it going with you and your Christian life and witness? How do others perceive and experience you, as a child of God, beloved child of God. Child in whom God is well pleased, or not?

Let us talk about how your Christianity makes sense to you and how you make sense to others. Remember we are here to be Christ like in this present world. We are to be radiant with the glory of our coming to life in Christ. We are to manifest the presence of Christ in the world, yes, you and me.

Please pray for me as I pray for you that we may come to certainty in these uncertain times and the security we all wish for, for most of us are still working our way through becoming the beloved of God. The title weighs heavy and for most of us the wait is long to become who we are called to be.

We struggle sometimes to fit into the identity that we already have. We are Christian and we are saved by God but what we are to become we are still working on.

Here are some thoughts, I leave for us to ponder on:

- ◆ Trust the process and be as honest with yourself as you can be.
- ◆ Trust that God called you to help you become whom God sees in you.
- ◆ Be patient with one another and love one another, despite the imperfections.
- ◆ You do not have to have it all together, because God has your best interest at heart.
- ◆ For all our uncertainty, we do not have to guess who Jesus is. Let us listen to him as instructed by God to the disciples.
- ◆ Remember despite appearances to the contrary, we all are still busy figuring it out.