

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
Sunday, February 11th, 2024, the Last Sunday after Epiphany
2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

As we think of this glorious mountain top experience for transfiguration, we have two comments in second Corinthians.

The gospel is veiled, let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts.

Maybe the light shines on the mountaintop, but before and after we're on the mountaintop is there light or is there darkness? Maybe when we're on the mountain top, we can see the light, and feel the light. But when we come down from the mountain top the light shines only in our hearts, or outside of ourselves mostly in our hearts because it's harder to see in the valley.

The gospel is veiled, and the god of this world has blinded the eyes of the unbeliever. Can the spirit of God still work through those who don't believe? Does this mean the gospel the light is veiled in their hearts? And maybe in our hearts as well?

More than likely. Let me ask you a question. If you could go back to the beginning of Jesus' ministry when he is calling his disciples, would you recommend to Jesus to call the twelve he did? Judas who betrayed him and Peter who denied him to mention just the two. Jesus saw something in them that is veiled or hidden that we and others may not see. With that in mind, might Jesus see something in others as well which we might miss, and in ourselves as well?

It is interesting on the mountain top they say Jesus with Moses and Elijah, then Jesus is alone. So, there is a value being connected and a value in being alone. Add a value connecting to the past through Moses and Elijah, and also being alone.

This is also about being connected to the past, but also in the present. Not reinventing the wheel but adding to it.

Transfiguration brings a lot of things together. Light in the darkness, connectedness in relationship with others, but also being alone. And connecting to the past but moving towards the present and the future.

This opens it up to a great deal of creativity. Who are we in relationship with? Were do we get both fellowship and ideas?

Transfiguration is moving toward the future, bringing with us ideas and concepts from the past, and creativity from several different places including from and with people who differ from us and are not part of our group.

That we don't have to be afraid of the darkness. That in our hearts and in the hearts of others is the veiled light, the veiled gospel. Veiled but there.

And we don't have to be afraid of being alone either.

That Transfiguration is being open to the possibilities for all to see.
There is darkness and concern but light and hope.

Amen

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you
and give you peace;
and the blessing ...