

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
Sunday, February 27th, Transfiguration
Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-43

Is there a connection between the transfiguration and the baptism of Jesus? It's not the transfiguration and the baptism itself but what is to happen afterwards.

After the baptism Jesus spends the 40 days in the wilderness because he can't stay in the high of the baptism where the spirit says to him you are my beloved with whom I am well pleased.

So, after the transfiguration we can't stay up on the mountain top as well even though Peter tries to stay up on the mountain top with the building of the three tents Jesus Moses and Elijah.

We also can't stay up on the mountain top but come down off the mountain into ordinary life. We need the mountain top, we need it to renew us to give us hope strength and courage.

Perhaps in some way staying up on the mountain top or trying to stay up stay up on the mountain top is a form of trying to maintain control of our lives. There is a sense of predictability on the mountaintop a sense of everything going our way, but life is not quite that simple. I am reminded of what Jesus says in John's gospel chapter 3 *the spirit as wind, where it comes from and where it goes no one knows.*

To be in the spirit is for all intents and purposes giving up control. This calls us into a relationship of faith and trust. Unfortunately, this means that being in relationship with God and each other doesn't allow us to be in control. There are times when we need to allow God and others to be in control. Maybe that's what Love Is All about as well to be able to give up control to the one we love.

Maybe that's what life and abundant life is all about. The challenges and adventures of life are about giving up control. To fully experience life with all its joys and wonders is to give up control.

So, to travel both physically and metaphorically is to risk and to risk is to give up control. We can maintain control of our lives at the cost of having a small life without adventure without challenge without learning anything new.

God's love calls us into relationship with God and each other that calls us to risk, calls us to give up control, calls us to trust and have Faith.

But ironically, the mountaintop experience gives us the strength and courage to come down from the mountain.

So, to live life to the fullest we need both the mountain top experience and the valley where we live our lives. Together they form the balance of an abundant and fulfilled life. May we all be encouraged to live life to the fullest in God and in relationship to one another.

Amen