

## Reflection for Sunday next before Lent

We heard in our gospel this morning, about Jesus being transfigured, being changed visually in front of his disciples.

In the transfiguration, there would have been lasting change to the disciples' perception of Jesus. If Peter, James or John had been in any doubt that Jesus was the Son of God, they couldn't have asked for much more evidence than this!

Rowan Williams writes, in a reflection of the icon of the transfiguration, that 'looking at Jesus seriously changes things; if we do not want to be changed, it is better not to look too hard or too long'. We too, can be changed.

It is interesting to note that the transfiguration occurred after Jesus had led Peter, James and John 'up a high mountain apart, by themselves'... Perhaps this is where the phrase 'mountain top experience' originates. Can we recall any such times in our own lives?

It's too easy to seek out and want to permanently live in these heady places! However, as Scottish theologian Henry Drummond writes 'God does not make the mountaintops, for us to *live* on the mountaintops. It is not God's desire that we live on the mountaintops. We only ascend to the heights to catch a broader vision of the earthly surroundings below. But we don't live there. We don't tarry there. The streams begin in the uplands, but these streams quickly descend to gladden the valleys below'.

Most of our life is lived in the valleys. Some valleys feel very deep and dark. But we can surely be sustained and equipped by the fruits of our glimpses and 'transfigurational moments'. They are there if we look hard.

*Revd Alison*

### Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 7 February until Easter Day

**Meeting ID:** 881 6251 3403

**Passcode:** 337962

**Telephone numbers** (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131

### NEXT SUNDAY 21.02.2021 Lent 1

**SERVICES** 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

### READINGS



OT Genesis 9: 8-17  
NT 1 Peter 3: 18-end  
Gospel Mark 1: 9-15

### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**Sunday 14th February 2021**

**Sunday next before Lent**

**10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)**

**12 noon Mass in Church**

Please note the **new codes for the zoom services** which will apply now until Easter Day, all being well. The telephone numbers are the same. Please see the middle panel here. Do encourage others to join us—we are having really good worship and some social interaction.

**Ash Wednesday** 17 February seems quickly upon us. There will be a zoom service at 7pm with the possibility of ashing if you have some in front of you. This will use the Sunday zoom codes and the printed Lent Worship sheets. Although this year feels very Lenten already, it's worth everybody asking themselves how they will mark this period of reflection and preparation: prayer, charitable works/donations, fasting are the traditional ways. It may be that the last of these feels a bit redundant as we are missing so much, so I wonder if there's anything we could do to share our food a bit more—e.g. the Larder.



## 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. **Amen**

## 2 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.

## 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.

## Mark 9: 2-9

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 any more, 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.

## Post Communion

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

**Community Larder** The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be in the Church Hall. Please continue to be generous.

## **Knit and Natter Update for February 2021**

Huge thanks to everyone who has knitted squares (eight inch in garter stitch): they are such joy with their rainbow colours and gentle warmth. Ian will kindly receive any that are finished either at the 12noon Mass on Sundays or at the Larder collection on Tuesdays. Our natter sessions continue on Thursdays at 11.15am on Zoom, thanks to Vanessa. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

**House Group.** Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

**Electoral Role revision** Carolyn is revising the role this year in advance of the APCM. Please could you contact her by email or phone if you want to continue to be on the role. Because of the current restrictions, we will assume that folk wish to continue on the role unless they specifically tell us otherwise. If you are not on the role and wish to be, you certainly have to contact Carolyn.

**Annual Meeting** Sunday 16 May, arrangements to be confirmed