

Reflection on this week's readings

Today's readings all link to the experience that was given to the apostles Peter, James and John towards the end of Jesus's ministry: the Transfiguration, when (at least some of) Jesus's heavenly glory was revealed to his closest companions and God affirmed Jesus as his beloved Son. The Gospel reading gives St Luke's account of the event; Peter refers to the experience in his letter; and centuries earlier the prophet Daniel was given a vision of God's throne and one "like a human being" (who we understand was Jesus) being given glory and everlasting kingship.

A few days before seeing Jesus be transfigured Peter had declared that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of Almighty God. Peter had come to this conviction during three or so years of sharing Jesus's life and seeing firsthand the power he had to heal and forgive as well as the love and compassion for the sick and the poor that drove him to use it. That showed that God was with Jesus, and working through him, but it would also have been apparent that Jesus was really a human being, in need of food and rest like everyone else. The Transfiguration showed clearly to Peter and the others the full extent of Jesus's connection to his Heavenly Father, which is just as true as his humanity (and his connection to us).

It can be hard to hold both of Jesus's natures, human and divine, in our minds and hearts as we pray and worship. Sometimes a gospel reading will portray him as a good and wise person who could be living next door, while at other times our church services might make him seem far above us. Both are true, but neither is the full picture. It is truly amazing that God not only acts to bring us back to him but does so by making his son become one of us. In a similar way, when we do God's work here in St Thomas parish, it is not only our human action but also God himself working through us by his Holy Spirit. And that makes me feel truly humble!

Ian Totterdell, churchwarden



Codes for the Zoom worship at 6pm

These are codes for Sundays from 04.07.21 until the end of August

Meeting ID: 859 7288 7300

Passcode: 605760

Telephone numbers (unchanged) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 15.08.2021 The Virgin Mary

SERVICES 10.30am in Church, 6pm by Zoom

	OT	Revelation 11: 19 12: 6,10
	NT	Galatians 4: 4--7
GOSPEL		Luke 1: 46-55

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 8th August 2021

The Transfiguration of our Lord

10.30am Mass in Church

6pm via Zoom

We continue to make slow and careful movements forward, with a little music at Sunday's Mass and the re-starting of the **BCP Eucharist at 10 o'clock** on Wednesdays. There were a few people at Church last Sunday whom we have not seen for a long time—so thank you for setting an example! As folk start to come back, we will be reducing the number of **pewsheets** we send out by post, with more available at the door. The intention is to stop this for good at some point in the future.

Thank you also to all who have kept other things going and restarted them, e.g. the **Knit & Natter** and the **Ladies Lunch**.

8 August is also the feast day of **St Dominic**, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). We ask his intercession for all the times we preach the Christian faith.

Fr David



Collect

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Daniel 7: 9, 10, 13, 14

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

2 Peter 1: 16-19

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place,

until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Luke 9: 28-36

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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**

NOTICES

Just to underline the new pattern of Sunday worship: Mass in Church at 10.30, and an online Zoom service of Evening Worship at 6pm, codes overleaf.

4th August onwards Holy Common in Church at 10am.

Mask wearing is still advised by the Church of England for services in church.

8th August onwards. Coffee and tea will be offered after the 10.30am Mass. It will be served from the Servery in the North Transept. If the weather is good, there will be seats outside the North Transept to gather for fellowship. If the weather is poor, we will serve in the Nave.

House Group. On holiday until September!

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays** from 10am-12noon. The collecting point is in the Choir Vestry via the Tower door. Please continue to be generous. *Please note that there will **not** be a collection on 17th August.*

Knit and Natter Update for August 2021

We have decided unanimously to meet weekly on Thursdays in St Thomas Pleasure Ground, from 10.30 to 12 noon. If it's wet, at 19 Maple Road. All details from Jenny on 01392 498715.

200 Club If you would like to join the 200 Club there is a Standing Order form on the website (or ask the churchwarden).

Young at Hearts 25th August 2-4pm Natter or Cream Tea.

Mailing the Pew Sheet Over the next few weeks we will be progressively reducing the mail-out in the ordinary post. Pew Sheets will be still be available on Sunday mornings.

