

February 12, 2022



*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. ... 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. (Luke 9:28-30, 33)*

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

On the last Sunday of Epiphany, sometimes known as Transfiguration Sunday, we will hear the story of Jesus taking a few of his disciples up on the mountain to pray. We'll hear about how Jesus was transfigured there, a sign and a symbol to his followers of the glory that was to come. And we'll also hear about how Peter sought to capture the moment, to hold on to it. "It is good for us to be here," he said, and offered to make dwelling places where they could live.

Scripture tells us that "he knew not what he said." But Jesus knew. They could not stay there. There were places for them to go, people for them to meet, and things for them to do.

Through the season of Lent, we will hear other stories about being on the move, about being called forward into an uncertain future, about finding ourselves in new and unexpected places, and about being asked to live in different and unanticipated ways.

We will hear about Abram being led into a new land, to form a new people. And we will hear about the Israelites being called to step out of their enslavement in Egypt, into a liberated future with God. And later, about how they were called out of their time of wandering, into a new place, and a new way of living - as a sign to the nations. About how, through them, the nations were called into relationship with the God of All.

And we'll hear about Jesus being led into the desert, to experience temptation, and then being led out of that place, into a ministry on the move. About how that ministry called Jesus inexorably toward Jerusalem, and the death that awaited him. And about how the disciples were called to accompany him, and to serve as witnesses to what happened there.

And we'll hear about what happened after, how the church has kept and shared those stories, learning from them what it means to be disciples of Christ.

About the Philippians, being called into seeing themselves as citizens not just of earth, but of heaven. About the Corinthians being called into new ways of living, and new relationships with each other. About how we are all called to follow Jesus, not only holding ourselves faithful through the trials and temptations of this life, but about trusting enough to follow him even through the grave and gate of death, into the joyful resurrection that He has promised.

*Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12-14)*



**EASTER**

*"Rise, O Church, and lift your voices,  
Christ has conquered death and hell."*

We too are being called forward, into a changing landscape and an unknown future. And sometimes we, like Peter, also wish that just for a brief, glorious moment, things could stay the same! But they don't, and they can't, because every single day, God is working his purposes out – bringing to fruition his plan to transform this world, and us. Calling us, and leading us, day by day, as individuals, and as the church.

More – infinitely more! – lies ahead, if we are willing to follow Christ.

Together, we continue to learn what it means to be disciples of Jesus, in this time, and in this place. In the middle of Bramalea. In the midst of a pandemic. In the year 2022. In the newness of our relationship, as priest and people. In the context of a hope for a transformation of our church building, that will help to bring about a transformation in this community.

I will be honest and say that I don't really like change any more than the next person; that I have my own doubts, fears and insecurities about what the future holds, and about the role God might call me to play within it. If you feel this way too, know that it is normal. The Biblical record tells us that even Peter, standing by Jesus' transfigured side, felt the same! He wanted things to stay the same. And the Bible also tells us that Peter didn't always live up to Jesus' hopes for him, that there were times he messed up. I will too. We will too. But Scripture also tells us that ultimately, Peter stepped forward into the role that God had planned for him. He learned, he grew, he stepped out with boldness.

As we begin our Lenten journey, we can't be sure exactly where the road will take us. We don't know how these next few weeks or months will change us, or how God will want to use us, to bring about change in this world. What we do know, is that Jesus goes ahead of us. That God will be beside us. That the Holy Spirit lives in us, and intercedes for us. That we are not alone. We are in Christ, and Christ is in us, and we are all in this together.

*I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God. (Ash Wednesday Service - BAS, page 282)*

I invite you to step forward with me – to step forward into the story of Jesus, and into the story of the church. Let us step forward into the story that God has not finished writing for us. Let us step forward in faith, looking to the past, in order to find our hope for the joyful future that God has promised to all those who put their trust in him. Let us ground ourselves in our present reality, acknowledge it, and acknowledge how it has already begun to change us. And then, let us move toward the glory of a future with God.

Let us step forward into this season of Lent, knowing that at the end of it, Easter will come, and with it, the good news of the Resurrection, and the promise of rebirth for us all.

With prayers and best wishes that you would have a most holy Lent, a rich and meaningful Holy Week, and joy and gladness in the celebration of our Risen Lord.

Blessings,



The Rev. Pam Prideaux  
Incumbent

p.s. We hope to see many of you return to church in person over the next couple of months. But for those of you who aren't able or ready to be with us in person, be assured that we will continue to offer our online services, and that we will be thinking of you during these special seasons of the church year. You are invited to follow along at home, and we've included a few special items to represent the season.