

St Wilfrid's Calverley

Loving God, Loving Calverley, Growing Together.

Go Deeper, 19th February 2023, "Transfigure-Out"

Dear Miners,

Matthew 17 – The Transfiguration

This week's story invites you to turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace. This is a passage of quiet hope, peace, power, love and incredible heavenly glory as the Son reveals something of himself in a limited, yet dazzling way as the light of life.

I'm both horrified and comforted by who Jesus chose to appear with him – it could have been anyone, yet it was those two - a murderer and a suicidal depressive. He appears in his glory next to Moses and Elijah, symbols of God's plan in the law and the prophets, but also symbols of our human weakness and faith-filled endeavour. God's saving work in those two - that's the gospel right there.

- Start by spending some time digging into what Jesus transfiguration means.
- Who do you relate to most in this story? Why?
- What does the appearance of Moses and Elijah point to?
- Peter wanted to build a temple memorial in honour of an incredible spiritual experience with Jesus, Elijah and Moses. What is God building in your life, or asking of you personally and with those you know?

Every Blessing, Dave

Deeper Stuff

Why not use the following scriptures and poem as a springboard into worship of the glorified Christ? In whatever style you want to – contemplate, sing, pray, but worship Him!

- He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. Colossians 1:18

- The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1:3

- For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. Colossians 2:9

- In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[2] it. John 1:4-5

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The Transfiguration, a poem by Malcolm Guite

For that one moment, 'in and out of time', On that one mountain where all moments meet, The daily veil that covers the sublime In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet. There were no angels full of eyes and wings Just living glory full of truth and grace. The Love that dances at the heart of things Shone out upon us from a human face And to that light the light in us leaped up, We felt it quicken somewhere deep within, A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope Trembled and tingled through the tender skin. Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.