



## Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 49

Sunday 14th February 2021

### Transfiguration

Dear Friends

It's good to be with you again, even if we can't meet face to face. I hope you're all as well as can be expected and I look forward to being with you very soon.

Today, as well as being St. Valentine's Day, is the last Sunday before Lent, when we read about the Transfiguration. On Wednesday we begin the journey with Jesus towards Jerusalem and the events of the Passion, but today, let's pause and examine this unique event.

In Mark's Gospel (and in Matthew and Luke) we are told that Jesus took Peter, James and John up a high mountain, by themselves, and while they were there, Jesus was 'Transfigured'. The Greek word is *metamorphe*, like when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. Jesus is morphed (sounds like real sci-fi!). We are told that 'his clothes became dazzling white, such as no-one on earth could bleach them'.

Then Moses and Elijah appear and Peter offers to make tents. Peter either wants to pad things out or he just feels awkward; a case of 'don't just stand there – do something!' Jesus doesn't always want us to 'do' something, though, sometimes we are called just to 'be' and in this case busy-ness is not what is required. Peter, James, and John must just listen and it's while Peter is still speaking that a voice comes from the cloud 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him' The voice tells Jesus and the disciples who Jesus is. It's a moment of huge revelation, full of symbolism, and it's what this episode is really all about – seeing Jesus for who he really is.

Let's look for a moment at some of the symbolism here. Within the story of the Transfiguration is the promise of a kind of life beyond what is apparent to earthly eyes most of the time. It was thought by many that Moses and Elijah would be sent by God to inform humankind that God's reign was at hand, so their appearance here is hugely significant. The cloud, into which the two messengers disappear is in itself a sign of God's presence (Exodus 40:34-38), again emphasising the significance of the occasion.

This glimpse of who Jesus is was really important for the disciples. Of course, it was not an end in itself. It empowered them for service. This was an opportunity for reflection; it was God-given encouragement. It is also important for us as our world is increasingly filled with a variety of confusing and challenging events. The encouraging words of Jesus, 'Do not be afraid' are needed now as we live

in a time of enormous uncertainty. To all these different fears, the response of Jesus to his followers is the same; that because our God is the God of the past, the present and the future, **we need not fear.**

With love and prayers

Gill Short

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;  
Come bow before him now, with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.  
Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;  
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.



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