

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH METCALFE, ON.

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

Feast of the Transfiguration

Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we prepare to ascend Mount Nebo on this the Feast of the Transfiguration, we acknowledge that our sacred space and the places where we dwell lie in the unceded land of the Anishinaabe Algonquin peoples.

People: **May we share the land which the good Lord has given us with a spirit of hope, cooperation and reconciliation.**

Fr. Michael: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: How good it is for sisters and brothers to live together in unity.

People: **For there the Lord has ordained the blessing, life for evermore.**

Fr. Michael: Heavenly God, we thank you for bringing us safely home to this our sacred space. May we share our resources of time and energy, of visions and dreams to build your house into that place where hope and grace meet and embrace one another. May Holy Trinity shine as a beacon of your love and agape service to all who grace our path today and every day. We ask this in the name of our brother Jesus Amen.

Fr. Michael: Gathering in community, we pray... Almighty God

People: **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: And now with all the saints in heaven and on earth, together we pray, Glory to God in the highest,

People: **and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: God 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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Fr. Michael: By the appearance upon the earth of our Saviour Jesus Christ

People: **God has broken the power of death and brought us light and immortality.**

Fr. Michael: Arise, shine for your light has come

People: **and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Fr. Michael: For though darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the nations,

People: **the Lord will rise upon you and his glory will be seen upon you,**

Fr. Michael: By the appearance on earth of our Saviour Jesus

People: **God has broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light.**

(Church of England, Feast of the Transfiguration 2022)

Reader: A reading from the Book of Exodus (Exodus 34: 29-35)

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him.

But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Lord, help us to remove our veils: when we come before you – our coverings that prevent us from being with you face to face. After listening to you, may we come down from the mountain with shining skin; may we call others to come near, speak with them about our experience and share with them all that you have spoken. May the process of removing, listening, shining, calling, speaking and sharing begin again and again and again...Amen
(Courtney Veazay Pray the Lectionary website 2021)

Psalm 99:

Reader: El Shaddai reigns! Let the peoples who despise or ignore the Lord tremble! The Lord is carried on the wings of the cherubim, let the earth shudder for joy! Elohim is magnified by the people, let every one exalt the Lord. Let the peoples praise God's great and glorious name. Holy is the Lord.

All: **God is a strong judge and a passionate lover of justice. The Lord has established equity as a basic rule of life. The Lord has always executed justice and acted uprightly towards all. Exalt God therefore, and worship at the feet of the Lord, for the Lord is holy!**

Reader: El Shaddai chose Miriam and Moses to serve the Lord; Deborah and Samuel called upon the name of the Lord. When they cried to El Shaddai, they were answered in the cloud

of mercy. They, in turn, treasured God's testimonies and taught others the statutes they were given. God answered them forgave them and avenged all wrongs done against them.

All: **Exalt the Lord our God and worship in God's holy presence, for the Lord only is holy!**

Reader: A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2)
Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside.

Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: O Lord, you call us to go to the mountaintop with you. And so we follow you not certain what is going to happen, but we like mountain tops, we like the view from up here, we like mountain top experiences. Lord, sometimes we need mountain top experiences with you when our days are dark and dreary, when our hearts are heavy, when the valleys seem more depressing than ever. Lord, may this mountain top experience fill our hearts with your light, may we be filled with your joy and your hope. Lord, just as Moses, Miriam and their disciples were changed by their experiences, we too are changed and transformed into the image of Jesus by your mercy. Lord, may we have unveiled faces that reflect your love, your hope and your light. Amen (Reverend Abi from re:Worship Prayer for Transfiguration 2022)

Holy Gospel

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the blessed St. Luke (St. Luke 9: 28-43)

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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. On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks.

It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

Fr. Michael: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Homily - JESUS WEPT

As I was reading through the appointed Scriptures for this Sunday, I got a phone call from an old priest (old in years of friendship and not necessarily in chronological age!). I hadn't spoken to him for a number of years and I thought it unusual that he would call me out of the blue. We chitchatted about what we'd both been up to for the past couple of years and...well, you know how these sort of things go.

After about ten minutes of this, I asked him why he was calling – not that I didn't like hearing from him, but there's usually something going on when these sort of encounters from the past come knocking with no warning or seeming reason. After thanking me for asking, he launched into a situation he was finding himself in as a retired priest in another diocese who was working a few days a week as a volunteer in his local church. For some reason, he wanted my advice as to where to go with his parishioner and as he said, for some strange reason my name popped into his head. Thank God I haven't moved in over thirty years as my home number was the only one he had! We talked with a seriousness for a long time and I basically listened to his story and kept asking him what he thought was the "right solution" to the issue. The story in a nutshell was this: this man had been badly burned by the behaviour of certain individuals in the parish and he didn't want to go to the Rector because he wasn't convinced that the Rector would b't give him a sympathetic or measured response. My friend conceded that that could be the impression his Vicar gave off ...

When my friend and I ended the conversation with the normal, "Let's keep in touch" stuff, I sat back and looked at the notes I had made – how coincidental was the epistle for today :

Paul wrote these words to his community of believers in Corinth: “We, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, which is the Spirit.” I was struck by the phrase “transformed into his likeness” and thought of my friend offering this man the gift of hearing and reacting as the living face of Christ...

The following day, I couldn’t get all this out of my head and, as you may now know, I solve these sort of “stuck” moments in the best way I know – by writing something. And this is what I wrote.

He stood by the side of the road with his thumb out,
wondering if the next car
would be his salvation
or lead him into darkness.
He was running, running from the brokenness of his relationships,
fleeing the impossibility of reconciliation,
fleeing the city which bore down on his soul,
fleeing the madness,
fleeing himself while dreaming of the new which lay just around the corner
where the sun shone and the skies were warm once again.....
while JESUS WEPT.

He sat alone by the window.
watching the strangers go where they will,
oblivious to his presence, oblivious to his pain
as he traced the frosting glass with the memory of the pathways of his life
with no beginnings, no ends,
dreaming about what once was, what should have been, what was to be
as the coldness of the day etched in silver shards penetrated him
and filled him with...nothing.....
while JESUS WEPT.

He found the sanctuary right where the newspaper said it would be,
and entered on Sabbath morning,
hoping it would be like going to the home of an old friend.
He sat in the back where he had always sat in other sanctuaries,
hiding from the stares and glares of the regulars
who never quite trusted
outsiders.
He sat where he always sat,
waiting for the music to begin,
for the prayers to be droned in that “oh-so English” monotone,

expecting empty words preached to empty lives in empty pews
from empty pulpits
as the lyric from Eleanor Rigby danced through his mind,
“All the lonely people, where do they all come from;
all the lonely people, where do they all belong?”
and waits for the sharing of the Peace done with averted eyes
and mumbled Shaloms.....
while JESUS WEPT.

He heard the sound of weeping,
and felt the brush of salted tears across his forehead
as if someone had just embraced him,
and he moved towards the phantom of love,
only to find no one sitting beside him,
but there was that lady who sorta waved at him from
the pew three rows away and then bowed her head
as if she was ashamed at what she had done.....
while JESUS WEPT.

And then he heard, from the darkened recesses of his being,
a brief “AHEM” behind the pandemic mask
and saw a hand, covered in age spots and the tremble of the aged
reaching out,
reaching in
to dance with him...

“Will you join us for coffee?”
and JESUS DANCED AND LAUGHED AND WEPT
that someone had been transformed into him
for even one brief moment
so that someone lost could be found,
someone deaf could hear,
“ HERE I AM. “

Fr. Michael: Faith means betting your life that something is true. For two thousand years, the Christian Church has bet its life on the Lord and declared,
People: **I believe in one God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of**

**the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Fr. Michael: Holy and loving God, whose nature and ways are beyond our understanding, we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus who lets us see your face in his, who shows us your love in his actions, your grace in his manner of being. In him too, O Lord, we see ourselves as you would have us be and as your power is able to make us. Make us more like Jesus now we pray. Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our prayer and come among us once again.**

Fr. Michael: Lord, we often find ourselves weary, tired out by a load of care, a heap of responsibility and concern. We hunger and thirst and often fail to stop to eat or drink at the table which you have prepared for us. Lord, here we are now...we ask you for a glimpse of your glory. Fill us with your Spirit and refresh us and make us new again. Lord, in your mercy
People: **hear our prayer and come among us once again.**

Fr. Michael: Loving God, we pray that your Spirit may continue to fill your one, holy, catholic and apostolic church and give to your people everywhere the energy to shine wherever there is darkness, disunity, persecution or despair. We remember before you on this Feast of Transfiguration the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer and Paul Dumbrille, Ottawa Representative and all parish representatives, all Parish Administrators in our diocese and Martin Luther Lutheran Church and their pastor Judith Kiersche. Lord, in your mercy,
People: **hear our prayer and come among us once again.**

Fr. Michael: Father, we pray for those whom we name at this time, beginning with those who live within the secret blessing places within our hearts. May they find comfort, love and hope as we silently remember them. We also pray for the members of our parish family who have asked us to hold them in our hearts and thoughts today, especially Sarah, Kirsten, Howard, Irene, Marjorie, Zachariah, Roy, Jeanette and Cheryl. Grant to all health and wholeness of mind, body and spirit and give them strength and hope. Lord, in your mercy,
People: **hear our prayer and come among us once again.**

Fr. Michael: Give us all Lord a greater love of your holiness, a greater delight in your mystery and a greater joy in seeking your presence. We ask this through Jesus Christ who revealed your will to us.

Fr. Michael: When Christ appears we shall be like him because we shall see him as he is – as he is pure. All who have grasped this hope make themselves pure. So let us confess our sin that mar his image within us...

People: **Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.**

Fr. Michael: Your unfailing kindness is in the heavens, O Lord and your faithfulness reached to the clouds. Lord. Have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Fr. Michael: Your righteousness is like the strong mountains and your justice is as the great deep. Christ have mercy,

People: **Christ have mercy.**

Fr. Michael: With you is the well of life and in your sight we shall see light. Lord, have mercy,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

People: **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

Fr. Michael: Christ will transform our human body and give it a form that is like his own heavenly body. We are the body of Christ. We share his peace. May the peace of the Lord always with you.

People: **And also with you**

(Confession and Peace from the Feast of the Transfiguration Church of England 2022)

WE SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST THAT PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING WITH ONE ANOTHER.

Fr. Michael: Holy God, receive all that we bring before you this day and bring us also to that radiant glory which we see in the transfigured face of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Fr. Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Fr. Michael: It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy always and everywhere to give you praise, Holy Father, Almighty and Eternal God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. For on this day you revealed his glory before his chosen witnesses and, filled with divine splendour the human flesh in which he is one of us. So he prepared his disciples to bear the scandal of the Cross and showed that, in the Church, his body, the same glory would be fulfilled that shone forth from him, its head. And so with joyful hearts we echo here on earth the song of the angels in heaven as they praise your glory without end, singing,

(Proper Preface from The Church of England Feast of the Transfiguration 2022)

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Fr. Michael: Gracious God, in the fullness of time you sent Jesus the Christ to share our fragile humanity. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, you open the path from brokenness to health, from fear to trust, from pride and conceit to reverence for you. Rejected by a world which could not bear the Gospel of Life, Jesus knew that death was near. His head anointed for burial by an unknown woman, Jesus gathered together those who loved him. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks and said, "Drink this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." And now we gather at this table in response to his commandment to share the bread and cup of Christ's undying love, and to proclaim our faith as we say,

People: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Fr. Michael: Breathe your Holy Spirit, the Wisdom of the universe upon these gifts that we bring to you: this bread, this cup, ourselves, our souls and bodies so that we may be signs of your love for all the world and ministers of your transforming purposes. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Creator of All and we bless your holy name for ever. Amen

(Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer 1, Anglican Church of Canada 2001)

Fr. Michael: And now, as Jesus has gifted to us his body, his faithful ones, we pray,

People: **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Fr. Michael: Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

People: **So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

Fr. Michael: The gifts of God for the children of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF GOD SO FREELY GIVEN TO US BUT AT SUCH A COST TO HIM.

Fr.. Michael: Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus. May we who have been partakers at this table, his table, reflect his life in word and in deed so that the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fr. Michael: Glory to God,

People: **whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen**

Fr. Michael: Christ, whose glory fills the sky fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from your path. Christ, the Son of Righteousness, gladden your eyes and warm your hearts. Christ, the Dayspring from on high, draw near to guide our feet into the ways of peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you this day and remain with you always. Amen (From Feast of the Transfiguration Church of England 2022)

Worship follows the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Alternative Services.

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