



ST. PAUL'S
United Methodist Church

MARCH 4, 2019

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REFLECT REPENT REJOICE



MARCH 6

Service at 5:30 pm



- 2- RJ Weiland
- 6 - Fran Wray
- 10 - Paula McConnell
- 17 - Pat Bowles
- 23 - Sandi Borcharding
- 25 - Dina Atnip
- 29 - Randy Atnip
- 29 - Sara Riggs

Happy Anniversary

- 29 - Bob and Pat Weber

Are you interested in helping with the Audio/Visual on Sunday mornings, but you have no idea where to start... this is for you? Workshops are being offered and we would like to send someone to training and in return you can help train others. Here is the link to the workshops. <https://www.churchsoundbootcamp.com>. If you are interested in attending the training in Tulsa or Dallas please contact the office.

Have you seen our new online giving program? We're excited about the new things happening at Saint Paul's through our online community. You can securely give from our website at spumcduncan.com and via text message by messaging "walkthetalk" to 73256.



Donna Frye will be a Grandma this week!
Lenten Lunch to be held at St. Paul's

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Pastor David Gardner

Every year, I get a bit more out of certain Sundays. For example, Transfiguration Sunday is a bit of a mystery and to me, a confounding miracle story. Yet, I continue to search and study about how it might be relevant for us as a congregation. This year, I am initially looking at Transfiguration from two standpoints - one standpoint is from one of our early church figures, St. Cyril. This man was the Patriarch (kind of like a “mini-pope”) of Alexandria from 412 to 444. The reason the dates are interesting is that Alexandria is at the high of its power during the Roman Empire. It is a high seat of learning in the world and many different types of people and cultures met in Alexandria.

Matthew 17:3-5 (NRSV) **3** Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. **4** Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” **5** While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” **6** When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. **7** But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” **8** And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

Here is a part of Homily 51 from Cyril:

But besides the wonderful and ineffable sight of Christ’s glory, something else was done, useful and necessary for the confirmation of their faith in Him: and not for the disciples only, but even for us too. For a voice was given forth from the cloud above, as from God the Father, saying: “This is My beloved Son, hear Him. And when there was the voice,” it says, “Jesus was found alone.” What then will he who is disputatious and disobedient, and whose heart is incurable, say to these things? Lo! Moses is there, and does the Father command the holy apostles to hear him? Had it been His will that they should follow the commandments of Moses, He would have said, I suppose, Obey Moses; keep the law. But this was not what God the Father here said, but in the presence of Moses and the prophets, He commands them rather to hear Him. And that the truth might not be subverted by any, affirming that the Father rather bade them hear Moses, and not Christ the Saviour of us all, the Evangelist has clearly marked it, saying, “When there was the voice, Jesus was found alone.” When therefore God the Father, from the cloud overhead, commanded the holy apostles, saying, “Hear Him,” Moses was far away, and Elijah too was no longer nigh; but Christ was there alone. Him therefore He commanded them to obey.

To me, God affirms Jesus similar to the Baptism, but also makes the point that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law AND the Prophets and that would be a glorious and shining revelation!

The other standpoint is from someone more modern, C.S. Lewis. He was a Fellow and Tutor in English Literature at Oxford University until 1954, when he was unanimously elected to the Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge University, a position he held until his retirement.

Mark 9:1-3 (NRSV) **1** And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

The Transfiguration

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

Here is C.S. Lewis, from Miracles:

The Transfiguration or "Metamorphosis" of Jesus is also, no doubt, an anticipatory glimpse of something to come. He is seen conversing with two of the ancient dead. The change which His own human form had undergone is described as one to luminosity, to "shining whiteness." A similar whiteness characterizes His appearance at the beginning of the book or Revelation. One rather curious detail is that this shining or whiteness affected His clothes as much as His body. St. Mark indeed mentions the clothes more explicitly than the face, and adds, with his inimitable naivety, that "no laundry could do anything like it." Taken by itself this episode bears all the marks of a "vision": that is, of an experience which, though it may be divinely sent and may reveal great truth, yet is not, objectively speaking, the experience it seems to be. But if the theory of "vision" (or holy hallucination) will not cover the Resurrection appearances it would be only a multiplying of hypotheses to introduce it here. We do not know to what phase or feature of the New Creation this episode points. It may reveal some special glorifying of Christ's manhood at some phase of its history (since history it apparently has) or it may reveal the glory which that manhood always has in its New Creation: it may even reveal a glory which all risen men will inherit. We do not know.

I think that the shining of the face of Christ is something from within - a portion of the image of God. I also think the shining of the clothes is something from without; but that in both instances, the power that we see is sourced with the glory of God. I also like that the Transfiguration is important because what it meant 2,000 years ago - I also think it is important for us today, especially as a reminder of "...Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!"

Psst. I also don't think we need a "mountaintop experience" to see God's glory. I am grateful to God to serve Duncan and St. Paul's UMC, because I see the glory of Jesus in so many of you, time and time again.





Drew Cole - Cancer
Lauryn Merritt - Going to be induced on Wednesday.
Junior Brown - Recovering from Surgery
Jimmie Bruner
Connie Green - Cancer
Courtney - Continued prayers for the Sara Riggs - For strength and Patience

Allred's 11 yr. old grandchild with neurological issues.
Kathy Allred - Continued prayers for healing
Pat Weber - Foot Pain
Lydia's grandma - continued prayers for recovery after her heart attack
Major Marvin Asche - Home from Hospital after a gunshot wound
Pipkin Family
Billy Branch - Travel Mercies
Stacy Mettler - Cancer
Ann Johnson - Continued prayers for healing on her hip
Oleta Little - On Hospice. Brain Cancer returned
Addie McMurrin
Dave and Margie Robertson
Marcia's circumstances dealing with health, surgery, housing and work
Jason Poorman - (Edith Suiters nephew) Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
Addie's friend and relative on Hospice. Peace in her Family
Jim and Edith Suiter
Karen Gibson - Cancer
Gary Gibson - Cancer
Jan Smith - Cancer
Jennifer Shahan - Heart Problems
Iva Johnson - Hospice
Karen Stanfill - Cancer
Rebecca's cousin has eating disorder, liver failure and on transplant list
Kathy Bridges - Cancer
Joe Perry - Kidney cancer
Margaret Averre - Throat cancer
Daniel Whittney - Colon cancer; now liver cancer
Jennifer Allred - Spinal pain and fibromyalgia
Melinda Douglas - Lung Cancer