

## The Transfiguration

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Father 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 to so hear his voice and bear our cross  
that in the world to come we may see him as he is.

Our text this morning is Luke 9 verse 29:

**'While he was praying, the appearance of his face changed,  
and his clothes became dazzling white'**

Wednesday is the day in the calendar of the Church which marks the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. It is the moment when three of the disciples are privileged to see something of the full reality of what Jesus is – the Son of God: wholly human and wholly God. But today, let me point out one simple fact about this extraordinary moment in time: the fact that Jesus is joined on that holy mountain by Moses and by Elijah and he speaks about what will be accomplished shortly in Jerusalem, what the collect for the Transfiguration terms as 'the exodus' – the liberation of the Children of God from slavery not in Egypt but of sin.

Anniversaries are important. They are milestones, signposts, markers which help us to keep track of where we are, and where we have been and where we are

going. And this morning, therefore, I would like to touch on the importance of three types of anniversaries: theological, national and personal.

The Christian year includes the important events in the Life of Christ we should recall: his birth, death, resurrection and ascension. It marks key events like Pentecost, the martyrdom of Stephen, the conversion of St Paul. Over a three year cycle, we may hear in our services the bulk of scripture. We need to be reminded of, to remember, the key moments in our faith history, the key points of our belief which could be summed up as God's love for us and our response to his love by how we love others as we love ourselves.

Nationally, there are moments in our history that we need to mark, to remember. As David Boggis points out in his excellent article in our church magazine, the Feast of the Transfiguration, 6<sup>th</sup> August, coincides with the dropping of the first nuclear bomb on Japan by the United States of America, an action which was to bring about the end of the Second World War. Tomorrow, on August 4<sup>th</sup>, we will remember the declaration of the First World War a century ago, and later, on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, we'll remember the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of the Second World War. Why is it important to remember? Lest we forget the cost of the conflict, lest we forget the reason for the war, lest we fail to value the sacrifice in terms of lives lost and lives ruined.

Personally, there are points in our lives we should remember – my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday will soon be upon me. At the end of June, it was good to baptise little Carla and be reminded of her parents wedding here nearly two years ago. But today in our

service we are remembering Val and Geoff Carter's fiftieth wedding anniversary in the presence of their family: Andrea and Ian; Paul and Viv; Tim, Jonathan and Matthew; Thomas, Ben and Sophie. When fewer folk are actually choosing to opt for marriage as a way of living their lives, it is truly worth celebrating a union of two people which has stood the test of time. It is good to share their joy and to see the fruit of their relationship.

So why remember theologically, nationally, personally ? Because our memories define who we truly are. If we forget, then we forget what makes us truly individual.

I have spoken in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
Amen.

*Preached at the Eucharist*

*St Bartholomew's, Dinard*

*3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2014*

G: Sermons 30 : Transfiguration

