

February 14, 2021 – Transfiguration of Our Lord/Last Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introduction

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

We light a candle in remembrance of Joyce Scheuneman, Member of Zion Lutheran Church Pembroke who passed away on January 30, 2021. We remember her family in prayer.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of Life, Prepare our hands for a touch
A new and different touch, Prepare our hands for a touch
A touch of encounter, A touch of awakening
A touch of hope, A touch of feeling.
Many are the worn-out gesture
Many are the movements frozen in time
Many are the useless excuses just to repeat attitudes
Give us daring to create new titles of community
New links of affection breaking away from old ways of relating
Encouraging true, meaningful ways to move into closeness
(*Ernesto Barros Cardoso, Brazil*)

Prayer of Our Faith

Oh God, the source of our being
And the goal of all our longing
We believe and trust in you.
The whole earth is alive with your glory,
And all that has life is sustained by you
Help us to commit ourselves to cherish your world,
And seek your face.

O God, embodied in human life
WE believe and trust in you.
Jesus our brother, born of woman Mary,
You confronted the proud and the powerful,
And welcomed as your friends
Those of no account.
Holy Wisdom of God, Firstborn of Creation,
You emptied yourself of power,
And became foolishness for our sake.
You laboured with us on the cross,
And have brought us forth
To the hope of the resurrection.
Help us to commit ourselves to struggle against evil
And To choose life

O God, life-giving Spirit
Spirit of healing and comfort,
Of integrity and truth,
We believe and trust in you.
Warm-winged Spirit, brooding over creation
Help us to commit ourselves to work with you
And renew our world.

(Iona Community)

Gathering Hymn: ELW #553 – *“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”*

Kyrie

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE WORD

Listen, for God speaks, calling out to the earth,
Speaking for all to hear.

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." ⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50:1-6

Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵“Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him! Alleluia. (Luke 9:35)

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

²Six 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, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message: *Epiphany Sermon Series*, Bishop Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod. Hi everybody! It is a real delight to be here with you today and to be a part of your Sunday worship and to give your pastor this small bit of relief. Our rostered ministers have been doing a magnificent job of providing opportunities for us to worship over the course of this long pandemic. But friends, it is very hard work and anything we can do to help lighten the load they are carrying is well worth supporting! Today I'd like to share a few thoughts with you concerning the subject of vision. And I'm sure that most of you would agree that vision is a very important thing. You know very well from your own experience, both individually and as a congregation, that you need vision to carry a task through to completion. You need vision to sustain you and refresh you as you press through the bumps, turns and valleys we will inevitably encounter in life. There is, however, a potential danger involved in this vision business. Vision is good, but the line between being visionary and being delusional can sometimes become very fine! Let me spell out the differences I see by way of an incident that happened to me some years ago on a golf course. Now, for those of you who know not the pleasure of chasing a little bouncy ball over hundreds of acres of mixed terrain, let me tell you that all golfers carry a common vision. It is the vision of the perfect shot, a drive to the pin, a smooth effortless stroke and perfect backswing. You can imagine the

gentle arc of the ball as it climbs into the sky. Perhaps a few astonished oohs and aahs from the gallery. And then lastly, you imagine the final, graceful drop of the ball, pin high and just a few feet from the cup.

Well, one day it actually happened for me. The vision became a reality. A perfect shot on a 265 yard par three followed by a gentle, dare I say casual, tap-in for birdie! It had never happened before nor since! In retrospect, I now know that I should have accepted that vision, that unique experience, for what it truly was. I should have enjoyed this brief glimpse of golfing glory and then set it aside in my mind for future inspiration and guidance. But I didn't do that. Instead I immediately adopted the delusional posture of a naïve visionary. I was no longer Michael, the intimate friend of sand trap and water hazard. I now stood among the great ones; a veritable Tiger Woods! And, of course, I encountered the end which ultimately comes to all naïve visionaries; and by the time I had finished the fourth hole I had lost seven balls; torn up enough divots to generously sod my front lawn and was seriously contemplating how much my clubs would fetch at our next neighbourhood garage sale!

My vision was left in tatters. Not because there was anything wrong with the vision itself, but rather because I had naïvely assumed to have claimed and contained that vision rather than allowing myself to be carried forward, guided and inspired by it. Do you see the distinction? In our Gospel lesson we see elements of this dynamic played out in more sacred terms. Jesus and his disciples go up a mountain. Jesus moves on ahead and then, suddenly and unexpectedly, apparent magic starts to happen. Jesus form starts to change, he becomes like pure energy, pure light. Glorified beings seem to appear; Moses and Elijah. And then finally the whole episode is dramatically concluded by a mysterious voice from the heavens that proclaims this same Jesus to be God's own Son.

Can you imagine having such an experience? And who can really know how or what was happening! Regardless, it was extraordinary and the response of the disciple's is understandable. They are both terrified by and captivated by this vision and want to hold onto it. They want this glorious moment to go on forever. They want to set up tents and live right there on the mountain! But as quickly as the vision had come, it was gone. In an instant the disciples went from being privileged witnesses of the glories of heaven, back to being tired fisherman huddled on the unfamiliar face of a mountainside! The vision had come, and in spite of the disciples' desire to contain it and hold onto it, it had just as quickly passed. They confused this temporary and transitory vision for that which was eternal. They had

confused the means with the end! This is a danger which we, as a church, also need to continually guard against. We too can become misdirected and confused about the means and the end in ways that can distract us from our primary mission. Let me give you a secular example of what I mean. In 1960 a Harvard business professor named Theodore Levitt wrote a classic article that focussed on the dramatic decline of the railroad industry in early 20th century North America. The decline of the industry, Levitt concludes, didn't come about because people and freight no longer needed to be transported. The railroad declined, rather, because the railway managers came to believe that they were in the railroad business rather than the transportation business. They confused the means -tracks and engines -with the ends -the transportation of people and freight! Can you see any analogies for the church? Do we not sometimes function as if we were in the church business instead of the blessing business; the "we exist for ourselves" business as opposed to the "God's mission to bless the world" business?" Do we not sometimes fall into this same trap of confusing the means with the ends and making it all about us; acting as if the church – our buildings, institutions, practices and beliefs were an end in and of themselves, rather than being a means by which we can support and participate in the ultimate end of advancing God's mission to bless and save the world. I believe that there are many people in our communities who are open to experiencing the kind of conversions that many people experienced through Jesus' life and ministry, many people who are coming to recognize the emptiness and hollowness of the false gospels of contemporary life. But those questioners and seekers won't look for a renewed life in a community, in a church, that doesn't provide evidence of having experienced a similar conversion; that doesn't believably express the new life that we claim to be calling others to embrace. They won't easily be drawn to the life of a church which appears to be more interested in the church business than in the blessing business.

One of the unexpected, albeit forced, blessings of this time of pandemic has been a reordering of priorities; a renewed appreciation of the means and the ends. During this time where we have been cut off from our church buildings and from the activities and practices that received so much of our attention and care in a pre-pandemic time, we've been given the opportunity to focus on the real end and purpose of everything that we do; advancing the reign of God through faithful proclamation, prayer and service. It's been a kind of forced re-set that we really need to hang onto when the day eventually comes when we can return to some measure of normalcy in our life

together. The same voice that proclaimed Jesus to be “well loved” on the mount of transfiguration speaks that same blessing to us, today. That blessing is a means, and not an end. It is a means by which we are called to aid and abet the ultimate end of God’s mission to bless and save the world; a means by which we are empowered to share the Gospel of love and reconciliation that has been entrusted to us; generously, freely and extravagantly for the world’s salvation. AMEN

Hymn of the Day: ELW #315 - *“How Good, Lord, to Be Here”*

Prayers of Intercession

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit’s guidance in our stewardship of God’s creation, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all who suffer this day Florence, Jason, Harold, Richard, Dorian, Sharon, that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For companions on life’s journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God’s glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, especially for Joyce Scheuneman, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

During this current shut down we offer our Prayer For Gifts received for the continuing work of the Church ,

Let us pray

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

Music As Table Is Prepared

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

“Lamb of God”

We commune together with those at home

The body of Christ given for you

The blood of Christ shed for you, AMEN ✠

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep you in peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *ELW #318 – “Alleluia! Song of Gladness”*

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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News and Announcements:

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Harold Hampel, Richard Hubert, Dorian Verch, Sharon Watt.

SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO

Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon on Sunday mornings.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – With the recent provincial lock down ended in Renfrew County, our Ash Wednesday service will be held with current health unit guidelines. . On Ash Wednesday, Bishop Michael and his Assistants invite you to gather for a Synod-Wide Live-Streamed Worship Service at 6:30pm EST (7:30pm AST) www.easternsynod.org. Those gathered for this unique Synod-Wide worship opportunity will be invited to impose their own ashes (if ashes have been provided by their local congregation), or make a sign of the cross using water or simply their finger. All worship materials (including a copy of Bishop Michael’s sermon), live-stream links, and other resources are available on this page. Resources may be reproduced and shared with those who do not have access or ability to participate in mediated worship. Bishop Michael and Pastors Christie,

Doug and Adam look forward to gathering with you as we begin the season of Lent.

UPDATES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

1. With the restriction of the Covid pandemic we have begun using Zoom as a communication tool. I have purchased an account that can be accessed by other committees in the congregation. Please contact Jean for the account name and password. If you would like help with how to use Zoom please let me know. Susan Dupuis

2. We want to say a special "Thank you" to everyone who has given a special offering to our Stained Glass Window account. We now have enough money to complete this project. We are in the early stages of making plans to upgrade the entrance to the building from the parking lot. This area has deteriorated over the years and needs attention. If you would like to make a special donation we would suggest that you consider the building account. Susan Dupuis

3. Please remember that Pastor Leena is available to all for pastoral care during the next few months. This support may look different than we are accustomed to as she will be following all of the covid restrictions. She can be contacted at 613-631-1082

4. Zion's Annual Meeting: I am planning to hold the annual meeting on February 28 with March 7 as the alternate date if the February 28 date is cancelled. We will be holding a short worship service at 10:00 and will follow with the meeting at 10:30. The meeting will be a maximum of 1 hour long. I realize that attending in-person may not be possible for many members. We do not have the ability to do an electronic meeting at this time. We will be sending the annual report by e-mail to anyone that we have an address for. If you would like to pick up a print copy of the report, please call Jean to make the arrangement for pick up. If you will not be able to attend and have any questions regarding the report please give me, Susan Dupuis 343-369-2057 or Gerry Vandersleen 613-732-7649 a call

HELP FOR ONE OF ZION'S FAMILIES

It is with a caring and prayerful heart that the Social Ministry Committee is appealing to Zion's church family and friends to assist one of our young families.

Jason and Karen Godin, with their children Haley and Lucas are active members here at Zion. Jason is the son-in-law of Cheryl Sack and brother-in-law of Blaine Sack. Jason works as a Commissionaire Barrack Warden at Garrison Petawawa as well as a volunteer firefighter for Petawawa.

Jason recently received a Giobastoma brain cancer diagnosis - the same type of cancer that Gord Downie battled. Jason will be needing radiation and chemotherapy treatment for this aggressive, incurable type of cancer.

With the long road ahead;they could use some assistance as Jason's work benefits will not be enough to cover the many expenses that will be incurred in the foreseeable future. Therefore, we are asking for your help to soften the financial stress. Let us show them our love and support.

You can help with your contribution of cash, cheque or e- transfer.

- Make the cheque payable to Zion Lutheran Church, noting 'Karen and Jason Godin' on the envelope or the memo line. You can drop off the cheque at the church office or mail it to:

Zion Lutheran Church,
454 Miller Street,
Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4.

Please provide your name and address for a donation receipt.

- Use your online banking to send an e-transfer to: "zionoffice@nrtco.net". Passwords are not required as auto deposit is setup. Please indicate that it is for Karen and Jason in the message box.

We pray for God's healing touch.

Thank You and blessings to each of you for your generosity!

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR - ABOUT THE EVENT

It's cold out there. The Coldest Night of the Year is a covid-safe, family-friendly walk to raise money for charities serving people experiencing homelessness, hurt, and hunger. Walk virtually or in-person on February 20, 2021 – there's a place for everyone!

About Our Cause

The Coldest Night of the Year is a moment when tens of thousands of Canadians step outside the warmth and comfort of home and shine a light of welcome and inclusion.

Together, we're collecting donations that fund critical services at a local charity partner who serves and supports vulnerable families and individuals in our CNOY community.

- **We walk** through the cold and dark on **February 20, 2021** to declare our concern for people who have no home, and take shelter in nooks and crannies.
- **We walk** for those whose days are a battle to house and feed their families, and whose nights are filled with fear and frustration.
- **We walk** for those driven from home by violence and abuse. And we walk for people overwhelmed by isolation, guilt and despair
- **We walk** humbly, realizing that anyone can lose their footing and then lose everything else.

Each step we take brings someone closer to safety, health and home, as together, we raise funds for organizations whose commitment and work transforms peoples' lives.

Please support the vulnerable in our community by donating to Coldest Night of the Year. You can do that by:

1. Writing a cheque to Zion Lutheran Church and/or cash and mark the envelope or memo Coldest Night of the Year and bring or mail to the church then Zion will submit one cheque, for all who donate this way.
2. Go to the Coldest Night of the Year website and look for Team Zion with Team Captain Ellen and donate to the team. You can pick a team member to sponsor if you wish. You will need your credit card for that. If you wish to join the team, awesome, there is room for everyone.

Please help anyway that you can. Call Ellen @ 613 732 7649 if you have any questions

Your Social Ministry Committee

**Today's Video Has Been Brought To You By Zion Lutheran Church's
Production Crew:**

Presider: Pastor Leena Jensen

Musician: Blaine Sack

Worship Assistant/Reader: Wayne Kirk

Projectionist: Rick Gerundin

Credit Researcher: Diane Hammel

This Week at Zion – February 15 - 21

Monday		Family Day
Tuesday	7p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Wednesday	1pm	Staff Mtg.
	7pm	Ash Wednesday
Saturday		Social Ministry Coldest Night of the Year Walk
Sunday	10am	Worship Service