

Canon Davis Memorial Church
Anglican Church of Canada
Sunday of The Transfiguration

Officiant: Rev'd Paul Woolley

Read Bill Graham

Organist: Dorothy Miller

Acolyte: Bill Blunt

Intercessor: Ginny Schleichauf

380 Russell St. North (at Maxwell St.), Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 6S6

Tel: (519) 344-9531 - Email: canondavis@gmail.com – <http://www.canondavis.com>

February 19, 2023 — Transfiguration
THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Gathering Hymn # 645
Come Down, O Love Divine

Greeting p. 185
Kyrie Eleison p. 186

Collect of the Day: Almighty God, on the holy mount you revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured: mercifully deliver us from the darkness of this world, and change us into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st reading EXODUS 24:12-18

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 2 REFRAIN: *'God has exalted his anointed.'*

Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats? Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the Lord and against his Anointed?

God has exalted his anointed.

"Let us break their yoke," they say; "let us cast off their bonds from us." He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the Lord has them in derision.

God has exalted his anointed.

Then he speaks to them in his wrath, and his rage fills them with terror. "I myself have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion."

God has exalted his anointed.

Let me announce the decree of the Lord: he said to me, "You are my Son; this day have I begotten you. Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession. You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

God has exalted his anointed.

And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Submit to the Lord with fear, and with trembling bow before him;

God has exalted his anointed.

Lest he be angry and you perish; for his wrath is quickly kindled. Happy are they all who take refuge in him!

OGod has exalted his anointed.

2nd reading2 PETER 1:16-21

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PETER

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # #619

Fairest Lord Jesus

GospelMATTHEW 17:1-9

Sermon

Transfiguration: Spiritual Realities

For at least the last five hundred years the Western World - the industrial and scientific world - has been intolerant of mystery. We live in an age when we think that we can explain everything. There are many things that we can't see, many things that we can't touch, which are real and powerful: the light from the Sun - the electrons which flow through the billions of miles of wires we have strung up around the world - the radiation that we transmit from microwave dishes and radio aerials to power our telephones and televisions - the love that we experience from our friends and relatives -

.All these things are unseeable and untouchable - yet real. Yet despite the evidence that there are real but invisible and untouchable forces all around us many people refuse to believe in God; and of those who do believe in God there are many who refuse to believe that God can do anything out of the ordinary - they refuse to believe in miracles -

they refuse to believe in the power of the Holy Spirit -
they refuse to believe in the healing touch and in prayer as a powerful instrument of change -
.and transformation

Sometimes it seems that we of the Church - particularly of the Western Church - are completely out
of touch with why our faith has been so powerful a force in the world - sometimes it seems that we
.are out of touch with the invisible force that underlies our belief

Have you noticed that many people today seem to be hungry for some experience of what I call
?Spiritual Realities

The dramatic upswing of interest in the existence of angels, of witches, and the number of people
who consult psychics and future tellers speak of a longing that people have to go beyond the merely
.rational and scientific. Certainly this longing is reflected in the New Age movement

years back. It seems that a company called "Chi number of There was an interesting news report a
Pants" of Santa Cruz, CA, in keeping with the New Age belief in quartz crystals, was marketing a
special line of jeans. Each pair of the pants had a tiny crystal sewn into the back seam, which would
Laury Ostrow the company founder said, .rest at the base of the spine when the pants were worn
"You won't feel the crystal; you'll just feel the energy." However it seems that their real business, is in
.making expensive but comfortable jeans

in Quebec, which was about a fifteen minute I like to tell the story of my visit to a quartz crystal mine
drive from where my mother in law used to live. I went there out of scientific curiosity, since this is
.one of the only seven sites in the world where quartz crystals are mined

After the tour of the mine site I entered the gift shop, there were quite a number of people, and they
were doing something very strange: they were holding their hands out over the displays of crystals,
I was told that he – almost in a position of prayer. I asked one of these people what he was doing
energy. He then tried to convince me that the right one 'right' was searching for a crystal with the
.would help connect him with the spiritual realm

.You and I may laugh, but such beliefs have a great appeal for many people
They have that appeal - because too many of us - especially those of us in the mainline churches
have failed to connect others - let alone ourselves - to the very real power that is spoken of
.throughout the bible and the history of our faith

We have been too head oriented and have placed too little emphasis on the heart for too many
years - and the result has been confusion and the rise of charlatans and cheats who mislead those
who suspect that there is more to the world than meets the eye - but who do not know how to test
and evaluate other people's claims about the nature of the spiritual universe that exists all around us
:There is something we ought to acknowledge, something we need to confess and it is this

.Mystical experience is very much a part of our faith
.Indeed it lays at the root of all that we believe in

From stories like those we heard today where we see Moses going up on a mountain and hearing
God speak and Jesus being transfigured by a bright light in the presence of three of his disciples to
;the indescribable peace and joy that groups of praying and praising Christian pilgrims experience
– unexplainable and un-provable - in the scientific sense at least
.spiritual realities are the basis of, and indeed, permeate, our faith
Indeed throughout history right until the present day many of the greatest Christians who ever lived
.have reported experiences that are outside the realm of rational experience

It is said that a friend wandered into Handel's room just as he was finishing the last notes of
the "Hallelujah Chorus." He found the composer with tears streaming down his cheeks. The
magnificent work lay completed on the desk in front of him. "I did think," Handel exclaimed to
.his friend, "I saw all heaven before me, and the great God Himself

?What do you make of an experience such as Handel reported

?Is he speaking metaphorically? Or did he really see heaven

And what do you make of the man who reports that a friend prayed for his sick brother - a man who
?was expected to die within a day - and that this brother was given another five years

What do you make of reports that Elijah raised a poor woman's son from the dead or of the hundreds
of people who reported that they saw Jesus alive and well long after he was laid in the tomb

How do you explain the absolute conviction of those folk who have died on an operating table or in a
hospital room and on being brought back to life reported travelling down an ever brighter tunnel, till
at last they met their loved ones and were beckoned to either move onward toward God or to return
to life and finish what needed finishing

If we but believed what we have long preached and what we have long read in the bible - how much
different might our world be today

I do not want to do with you what so many generations of preachers have done with the story of
Jesus and his transfiguration - I do not want to rush you down the mountain and tell you that what
happened up there is not as important as what happens in the valley below

What I want to do - is have you understand that there really are spiritual realities that exist and which
defy our conventional wisdom - our scientific reason - and to give you one essential tool for
evaluating them

The first thing to be said about mystical experiences is - be careful
The human brain is a tricky piece of machinery. It can see things that do not exist -- or take the
wrong message from what lies before it

William James, a psychologist of religion early in the last century once pointed out that you can toss
a bag of marbles on the floor and by selectively ignoring certain marbles find any pattern you
wish. Our eyes and our minds can play tricks on us and lead us in directions that have no profit to
them

We see that tendency displayed in some Christians' obsessions with numbers
The American preacher Charles Swindoll tells about a lady in Kansas City who went to court to get
her license plate changed because it ended with 666. She stated that her fellow church members
were shunning her. As you know, the mark of the beast in the Book of Revelation is 666
Swindoll goes on to note that the 666 scare stuff is getting downright ridiculous. The fact is that
those three digits can be uncovered in almost anybody's name if you're willing to work at it hard
enough. Using the code A=100, B=101, and so on, Hitler adds up to 666
By adopting the so-called "devil's code" whereby the alphabet is numbered backward from zero;
Z=0, Y=1, X=2 as so forth - and then multiplying each letter value by 6 (whew!), fundamentalist
leader Jerry Falwell's last name equals 666

By the way, 666, it is thought was originally only a code for the Emperor Nero, who was one of the
greatest persecuters of Christians. This idea adopted by the early Christians and actually has little
other meaning

Maybe you find all this numerology fascinating, maybe not. There are some people, though, who
are very susceptible to such logic. And there are unscrupulous people who look for these
susceptible people to manipulate to their own ends. Often they do it in the name of religion. They
tell you that what they are saying is based on the invisible spiritual realities which undergird the
world. Be careful

If you wonder why most Christian churches put more emphasis on being true to the historical faith
than on any one particular subjective experience, this is it

We know feelings are subject to distortion and manipulation. It may make us seem somewhat dry
and unexciting at times but we know that when we are faithful to Scripture and the teachings of the
Church we cannot be misled by passing fads or sensations

Be careful. But also be tolerant. We don't know how God may choose to work in individual lives. It
is the height of arrogance for any of us to declare that God can only work in one way or another -
that God can only be found in one group or another

Most of us would be thrilled to have the kind of mountaintop experience that Peter, James and John
had where they beheld Christ transfigured before them; we would love to go up on a Mountain as did
Moses and hear God's voice, but we may live a lifetime and never experience any more than a lump
in our throat and a calm assurance in our hearts

If that's all we experience, that is enough. God knows what we need. If other people discover a wider range of experiences, if they shout and dance and speak in tongues, then who's to say but that .God knew their needs as well

Remember this --and this is the crux of the matter: The test of faith is not our experience of, or our .knowledge of, invisible spiritual realities, but in whether we bear fruit that is pleasing to God
The fruit of the Spirit, says St. Paul, is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness,
(faith, meekness, and temperance. (Gal 5:23

Does your special experience make you more loving, more peaceful, more trusting, more humble? Does your knowledge of Spiritual Realities make you more faithful, more prone to give God praise? Does this result in your being a better neighbour? A better citizen? If it .does, then no matter what that experience is, you are not far from the Kingdom of God
There are, spiritual realities that support not only our faith, but the very world around us. There are angels. There is a resurrection. Miracles still occur - the blind can still be made to see and the lame .to walk. And God still speaks - in dreams and in visions - and through his Word

And there are many here who can testify to these things. These spiritual realities still reach out and .touch those who expect them and those that don't
The transfiguration of Jesus is one of these. It happened to strengthen Jesus before his journey to Jerusalem - and it was witnessed so that we might be encouraged in our faith. The spiritual reality - .the spiritual power made evident that day - had a purpose. A good purpose
.And so it should be

The important thing for all those things we call Spiritual, is that we believe not simply in the power of the world that is beyond our everyday sight - but in the truth behind that power and in the God who makes it so - and that in believing in God and in his power - we strive - without fear - to live out a .worthy life - a life patterned after Christ Jesus our Lord

The Apostles' Creedp. 189

Prayers of the People

"May all praise your glory, O Christ."

For those who envision a creation filled with enduring peace born of your Spirit; sustain us by your Word until your glory fills creation. We pray: **May all praise your glory, O Christ.**

For those who await the morning star of unending justice; sustain us in hope until your reign is complete.

We pray:**May all praise your glory, O Christ.**

For those whose prophetic lives give witness to your enduring reign of love; sustain us by your Spirit until God is all in all.

We pray: **May all praise your glory, O Christ.**

For those whom you call to intimacy with yourself through prayer; sustain us with the richest spiritual gifts in keeping with your splendour.

We pray: **May all praise your glory, O Christ."**

For those who seek to discern your voice and fulfill your will; sustain us in faith until your eternal glory is fully revealed.

We pray: **May all praise your glory, O Christ.**

For those who served you with reverence during their earthly pilgrimage; sustain all the dead by the power of your resurrection.

We pray: **May all praise your glory, O Christ.**

God of glory and majesty, you revealed your choicest love in Christ. Help us to listen to your Beloved, in whose name we pray, that we may be sustained by the words of everlasting life.

Amen

Prayer for a Renewed Church: Almighty God, give us a new vision of you, of your love, of your grace and power, and then, give us a new vision of what you would have us do as your Church in this nation and at this time, and an awareness that in the strength of your Spirit, we can do it to your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Confession and Absolutionp. 191

The Peace

Offertory Hymn # 61

As We Gather at Your Table

Offertory Response Doxology (sung)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts: Holy God, receive all we offer you this day, and bring us to that radiant glory which we see in the transfigured face of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer # 2 p. 196

The Lord's Prayerp. 211

Breaking of the Bread # 2p. 212

Communion

Prayer After Communion: Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. May we who are partakers of his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

Glory to God & Blessingp. 214

Mission Hymn # 166

We Have come at Christ's Own Bidding

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sung Benediction

Go Now in Peace

*The **Flowers on the Altar** today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of our dear friend, Pat Wood., a gift of Joan Dew, Marion Curran and Gerry Rinker.*

Please enter names in the **Intercessions Book** each week to be read in the service.

News and Events

Please send all announcements for the bulletin to Karen by **11:00 a.m. Tuesday** of each week.
Call: 519-344-9531 or E-mail: canondavis@gmail.com.

If you would like a home visit with Communion or know of someone who would, please let Rev. Ray know as he and/or a Lay Visitor will be available in the coming weeks.

Please join us for **Coffee Hour** after service for a time of fellowship in the parish hall.

Reminders

Feb 21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:00 p.m. Cost \$10.00.

No Reservations and no take out.

Feb 23 Parish Council Meeting in the Boardroom at 10:00 a.m.

Hello Everyone

I have a couple of pieces of information to share with you. First, I will talk about Vestry and then about the Sarnia Area Conversation of Anglican Churches.

#1

Vestry, January 29, 2023 Highlights

Vestry Clerk Karen McBride

Rector's Warden John Hayter

Rector's Representatives to Parish Council Carol Spence and Carol Mercurio

People's Warden Sheree Lynn Hayter

Deputy People's Warden Tom Brown

Lay Delegate to Synod Carol Turner

Alternate Lay Delegate to Synod Karen McBride

People's Representatives to Parish Council. Ginny Schleihaufand Nancy Dease

Treasurer Carol Spence

Envelop Secretary Carol Spence

Financial Reviewers for 2023 Bob Spence and Elaine Hayter

50% of the interest from the Bequest Fund investments in 2023 be used as follows 25% to outside the Parish and 25% inside or outside the Parish as determined by Parish Council

-
50% of the interest from the Bequest Fund Investment in 2023 be spent as designated by Parish Council

-
Lenten monies received in 2023 be used to fund activities outside of Parish

-
100% of 2023 Coffee fund monies be distributed, 50% is allocated to St Vincent De Paul and 50% to Sarnia Blessings. Sarnia Blessings is a Non-profit group supplying meals to Seniors in need.

A delicious lunch was supplied by Rev. Ray and Sally Jenkins.
We also celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary with a delicious cake which they supplied.

We ended the year 2022 with a surplus of \$1,151.18
Our Apportionment was paid in full.

#2

Update on the Anglican Sarnia Area Conversation.

5 churches involved in Sarnia are: All Saints, St Bart's, St Paul's, CDM, and St John's in the Wilderness.

As you know the consultants from Trinity Centre Foundation who were hired by Bishop Todd gave a report on their findings on all five churches in September 2022. At that time it was reported that the best thing for CDM was demolition and the property be sold for development.

I believe St. Paul's and All Saint's were slated for closer. St Bart's is to be renovated and become a hub, St John's in the Wilderness is to be renovated and become a hub.

The representatives for CDM are Rev. Ray, Carol S, John H, and myself. We requested to see the reports and the names of who came and inspected our Church and property.

After two months of little response regarding the reports, we did have two inspections completed between the end of December and the beginning of January.

CDM representatives met with Trinity Centre Foundations Dave Harder, Archdeacon Sam Thomas and Regional Dean Amanda Longmoore on Saturday, February 11th at CDM to review an update.

Well, apparently, our Church is in good shape, which is no surprise to us.

We are not slated for demolition and we will continue as we are until such time when Rev. Ray officially retires and we will not have a minister. At that time, we will have to be re-evaluated.

Our main issue is that we do not have the funds for a full-time minister.

CDM always pays their bills on time and also their full apportionment each year. We have kept our books in good standing and are in the black.

Our CDM representatives will be attending a meeting with Bishop Todd and the others from the committee along with the four other Churches and their representatives on March 11th 2023.

I will keep you informed as the information becomes available.

Thank you for your continued support of CDM, and helping your church CDM continue to flourish. If you have any questions please contact me, Sheree Lynn at 1-519-245-7490 or 519-331-0566.

Sincerely Your CDM Representatives,
Rev. Ray, Carol S., John & Sheree Lynn