

Church of the Divine Love
LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence after the candles are lit

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#460 – Alleluia! sing to Jesus!**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Exodus 34:29-35**

Psalm 99

Second Lesson: **2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2**

Gradual Hymn **#618 – Ye watchers and ye holy ones**

Gospel: **Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#123 -Alleluia, song of gladness**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 362
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – #135 – Songs of thankfulness and praise	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #400 – All creatures of our God and King	

Sermon Sunday February 27, 2022

Exodus 34: 29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:2; Luke 9: 26-36, (37-43).

Dear people of God,

When have you recently experienced beauty? What are some of your most beautiful experiences? Before you answer let me explain what I am asking. I am not asking when you saw something you thought was beautiful. I am not asking about physical beauty, the outward appearance of people or things. I'm asking about moments and situations in which you experienced and participated in beauty not so much with your eyes or your mind but with your heart.

The beauty that I am speaking of cannot be defined. It can only be encountered and experienced. It's more than what our words can describe but is often named by our tears. I'm sure you've all had those times when the beauty of the moment fills your eyes with tears and all you can say is, It's just so beautiful. We are always waking up to the presence of beauty in ourselves, each other, and the world. How could it be otherwise when one of the divine names, one of the names for God, is The Beautiful One? Why wouldn't The Beautiful One make himself known through and regularly invite us to participate in beauty? Holy Scripture tells us that the Creator looked at all creation and declared it to be "very good," but did you know that the Hebrew word translated as good also means beautiful? What does it say about us that we have been created in the image and likeness of The Beautiful One? Here's what I think all this means. We have been created with an eye for beauty. We are to live with an eye for beauty. We are to see ourselves and one another with an eye for beauty. An eye for beauty opens us to the transfiguring presence of God in every human being, in our lives, and in our world. Beauty connects us to our truest and most authentic self, and it is available to all who keep awake.

So, what are your stories of beauty? When have you known and participated in that presence that can only be described as beautiful? Tell me what happened, where you were, who was there. When has the

beauty of the liturgy, a piece of music, poetry, a conversation brought tears to your eyes? Recall a time when beauty wrapped itself around you and all you could think was, I never want this moment to end. The experience of beauty ranges from the most profound and intimate experiences to those fits of holy laughter that leave you with a belly ache and streams of tears. What are your experiences of beauty? Where have you encountered beauty this past week? Whatever your encounters are, they are an encounter with the divine presence, experiences of the Light of God illumining your life, experiences through which your life was transformed and forever changed. They are your experiences of transfiguration, moments, and situations in which you had an eye for beauty.

Isn't that what happened to Peter, John, and James? They kept awake and they saw Christ's glory. They had an eye for beauty. They awoke to the beauty that had always been before them. The beauty wasn't new, their seeing was. Luke doesn't offer any explanations or speculation about how this happened, only that it did. Neither do Peter, John, or James offer an explanation. They kept silent and, in those days, told no one of any of the things they had seen. I think there is some wisdom for us in the silence of Peter, John, and James. The transfiguration is one of those big stories, mountaintop stories, that can begin to seem a bit too fantastic, unreal, and distant from us. Often, we take those kinds of stories and either look for some rational explanation or we make it a supernatural event about Jesus that could never happen in the flatlands of our lives. Either way we close our eyes and fall asleep to the beauty of God that is in and all around us. Their silence, however, asks us to just let the story be the story. It doesn't need to be explained, it needs to be experienced. It doesn't need to be understood, it needs to be lived. When we let the story be the story, we create room for it to become our story. We let it live in us.

Most of us, I suspect, at some point each day, look in a mirror. We check our hair, our makeup, our teeth, our clothes. Mirrors show us what we look like. While it might be important to know what we look like, it's more important to know who we are. That's what this holy Feast of the Transfiguration is about. The Transfiguration of Christ shows us who we are. It reveals our origin, our purpose, and the end to which we must aim. Mirrors show external appearances. The Transfiguration, however, shows the archetypal beauty within creation and humanity. This means that the Transfiguration is not just an event in history, a happening that begins and ends. It is, rather, a condition or a way of being. The Transfiguration reveals a present reality. The transfiguration is already within us and the world. The glorified and transfigured Christ is the prototype of our own creation.

Peter, John, and James were also weighed down with sleep. Jesus took them with him and went up on the mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying "the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white." Moses and Elijah were also there talking with Jesus. The three disciples struggled between sleep and wakefulness. "Since they had stayed awake" they saw Jesus' glory. He revealed himself to Peter, John, and James and in so doing showed them the deepest reality of who they are. The spiritual journey is always a battle between falling asleep and staying awake, between absence and presence, between darkness and light. Sleepiness is not simply a physical matter; it is a spiritual issue and condition. Spiritual sleep is a form of blindness. It blinds us to the beauty and holiness of the world, other people, and ourselves. Blindness to God's presence in and the goodness of creation is what allows us to do violence to one another and ourselves.

Peter, John, and James experienced the transfiguration of Christ because they stayed awake despite the weight of sleep. They saw for the first time what has always been. They saw the light of divinity fully

manifest in a human being, something a mirror can never reveal. Peter misunderstood, however. "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Humanity can never build a dwelling place for God. It is, rather, God who makes humanity the dwelling place of divinity. This is most profoundly revealed in the Transfiguration of Jesus. The whole of creation participates in the glory of God. Humanity alone, however, is called to the Mount of Transfiguration. It is there that Christ reveals who we are and who, by grace, we are to become.

I don't want to fall asleep to the beauty and I don't think you do either. I want to look in the mirror before I go to bed and see beauty. I want to wrap my arms around you and stand together in the beauty. I want to call forth your beauty and I want you to do the same for me. I want to look at the disfigured, broken, and hurting places of our lives and world trusting that beauty is present. Let's keep awake. Let's live and see with an eye for beauty. Let's leave here today knowing that regardless of where we go, what happens, or who we meet Beauty awaits us. Beauty awaits. So be encouraged as we go into Lent, the resurrected Christ is with us throughout our journey of life, whether we are in darkness, or whether we are on the mountain top, He journeys with us and is the only one we should listen to. **Amen.**

SUNDAY – LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

11:15 AM VESTRY MEETING

MONDAY 8:00 AM AA MEETING

ASH WEDNESDAY HOLY EUCHARIST& IMPOSITION OF ASHES (time TBD)

7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

8:00 PM AA MEETING

SATURDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

SUNDAY – 1 LENT

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Girard Bishop	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
Celeste	Arlene Goodenough	Dorothy
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Grace Schinella
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Sylvia
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Del	Julia
People of Haiti	Chrissy Neville	Tim
Theresa K.	Amy E.	
Nathan Treadwell	Christopher & Family	
Victims of Natural Disasters		

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

