

Reflection for Sunday next before Lent

What image comes to mind when you think about God? Last week's New Testament reading, from chapter 4 of the book of Revelation, spoke of "one seated on the throne" and coming from that throne were lightning and thunder. Or maybe you think of Jesus as those three disciples saw him when he was transfigured, as we read in today's Gospel: shining in dazzling white clothes. These images give some impression of God's stupendous glory. The readings also remind us though that experiencing God's glory can be frightening for mortals: the disciples were terrified and Moses had to veil his shining face after spending time with God so that the Israelites would not be afraid to come near him. But God is not only full of glory; he is also full of love, mercy, justice and compassion. Perhaps that is why, when God chose to reveal himself most completely to us, he did so in the person of Jesus, living a life of loving service, culminating in his sacrificial death on the cross to open the way for us to come back to God. The prologue to St John's Gospel says that through that life – and death and resurrection – "we have seen his glory ... full of grace and truth".

How can we, by our lives, make our neighbours and community aware of God's glory, grace and truth?

Ian Totterdell, Churchwarden

Codes for Zoom Ash Wednesday service 7pm

Meeting ID: : 880 4360 3856

Passcode: 943312

Telephone numbers: 0203 481 5237,
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 06.03.2022 Lent 1

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church.

READINGS: OT Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
NT Romans 10: 8b-13
GOSPEL Luke 4: 1-13



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St Thomas, Exeter

27th February 2022

Sunday next before Lent

10.30am in Church

Ash Wednesday is this week on 2nd March. There is a Mass at 10am with imposition of ashes, and a zoom service at 7pm. The codes numbers for the zoom are given elsewhere on this leaflet.

If you are able to bring **old palm crosses** to Church in advance of Wednesday, they can be burnt to form the ashes. You may wish to provide your own ash for the evening.

Thinking ahead to **Easter**, Mary Naish is keen to think about Easter flowers in advance. Please give donations to her, to Pat Metford or Ian.

My hope is that during Lent we can gradually **open up our Sunday mornings** to more people participating, especially doing readings and intercessions. Some people have already volunteered for this, but we need more. Ian, Judith or myself are waiting to hear from you!

(Women's) **World Day of Prayer** 4 March. The theme is *I know the plans I have for you*, and the country focus is Vanuatu in the South Pacific.

Fr David



Collect

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Exodus 34.29–35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

2 Corinthians 3.12 – 4.2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where

the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Luke 9.28–36

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Post Communion

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high. If you are coming to coffee, we also recommend wearing a mask until you are seated in the Hall.

Knit and Natter March 2022 We shall be meeting every Thursday from 10.30 to midday at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. Next Meeting on **Tuesday 1st March 2022.** New people very welcome!

Street Pastors are starting their training sessions on 7th March 2022. If anyone is interested in joining the Street Pastors please see the website below.

www.streetpastors.org/locations/exeter

Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10am-12noon. **The Methodists** are looking for car driving volunteers to distribute the donations in the local area on Friday mornings from 11am for an hour or so. If you are interested please contact Julian Albrow, Methodist Minister, or Ian.

DBS renewals and checks a message from Carolyn Bryant, Parish Safeguarding Representative. As a result of recent changes DBS checks now need to be renewed every 3 years instead of 5, so everyone will need to complete a new online application. All PCC members will need a DBS check in their capacity as trustees of an organisation working with and supporting children and vulnerable adults. There are also others in connection with their work with children, taking communion to people in their homes etc. Please look out for an email from me with instructions and a link to the online application form over the next couple of weeks and speak to Jane Vowles or me if you have any questions. We appreciate that not everyone has access to email or may need additional support with the application process, providing acceptable ID etc and we would be happy to help if required.
Carolyn Bryant 07780707183
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