

Reflection: Sunday before Lent

Matthew 17:1-9.

On this Sunday next before we move into the Season of Lent, a Season of Reflection, we are reminded of how God reveals His glory through Jesus. In recent days and weeks we have seen dark clouds cover the sun, in the same way there have been dark events of life that have perhaps hidden from us the glory and Presence of our God.

Our Gospel this week reminds us, that when we feel that we are losing our grip, we are in the hand of God, we are in the heart of Jesus who says to us, "Arise, do not be afraid, for I am with you."

I am reminded of some words written on a wall by a Jewish prisoner in Cologne:

"I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love even when I cannot feel it.

I believe in God even when He is silent."

Fr Terry



Ash Wednesday Evening Worship Information

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82566945744?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82566945744?pwd=KytzV3ZEdDJJaEpKZlE1RHFWWWdTdDz09)

[pwd=KytzV3ZEdDJJaEpKZlE1RHFWWWdTdDz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82566945744?pwd=KytzV3ZEdDJJaEpKZlE1RHFWWWdTdDz09)

Meeting ID: 825 6694 5744, Passcode: 760537

Tel: 0131 460 1196, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240

NEXT SUNDAY 26.02.2023 First Sunday of Lent

SERVICES: 10.30am Sung Eucharist in the Hall
5.00pm Evening Worship by Zoom

READINGS: OT Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7
NT Romans 5.12-19
GOSPEL Matthew 4. 1-11



CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

19th February 2023

Sunday before Lent

10.30am in the Hall

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

82 Christ, whose glory fills the skies

53 Be still, for the presence of the Lord

70 Bright the vision that delighted

Ash Wednesday 22nd February

10am Holy Communion (CW) with Ashing

7pm Evening Worship on Zoom

Thursday 23rd February

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots.

9.30-10.30am Community Larder

10.30am-12noon Knit & Natter

3-5pm Warm Space (Hall) with pancakes

Friday 24th February

9.30am Morning Prayer.

10am Staff Meeting.



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 24.12–18

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.

2 Peter 1.16–21

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.

Matthew 17.1–9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

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

There will be a **retiring collection** this Sunday and following Sundays for those affected by the recent earthquakes in Turkey/Syria. Thanks for donations already.

Next week on the **First Sunday in Lent**, we are welcoming Bishop Jackie Searle who will **license Revd Mike Clark** as a new Associate Priest to the parish. Please come and support Mike as officially he begins his ministry, and hear more about what else he does in the Diocese.

Knit and Natter. On Thursdays from 10.30am-12noon at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Community Larder is receiving donations on Thursdays between 9.30 and 10.30am. Please note new day and time. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

House Group Fortnightly on Zoom. New people are always welcome; see Ian for Zoom details.

Food Fight (Food for Sundays) are looking for donations of warm clothing, such as hats, gloves, jackets and socks. They are also happy to receive individual-serving bottles/tetra packs of water or juices. **Volunteers are outside Nat West bank on Sunday mornings from 11am-1pm** so any donations can be dropped off there.

Simon James, social prescriber at St Thomas Medical Centre, is asking for volunteers on behalf of the **ExwickTwo's Company Befriending Service**. His telephone number is 01392 676638 For more information see <https://linkinglives.uk/project/exwick/>

We need a volunteer urgently to be responsible for **Hall party and regular users bookings** from Easter onwards and someone to be responsible for a team opening and closing the Hall after parties. These roles can be combined or split We mostly operate this system through emails. If you are interested please see Ian for details. It is important that these roles are filled **as the Hall is a significant source of income for the Church.**