

Whenever we gather together as a body, no matter how we do that: online or in person we can see Jesus more clearly. This is one of the joys of the corporate body of the Church. That within each of us resides the Holy Spirit and through this we reveal the fullness of Christ to those around us. Together we learn more and more of who Christ really is.

Our gospel portion this week is one which shows us who Jesus really is. The word transfigure and the word transform aren't interchangeable. To transform is inward as well as outward. To transfigure is to change outwardly... The transfiguration isn't a moment of taking on identity but of revealing it... The Transfiguration exposes Jesus' divinity... and acts as a bridge taking us from who we think Jesus to be to who he really is. Just as it was for the disciples. Peter, James, and John witness Jesus change before their eyes, he ceases to look as he did before... He appears and speaks with the two greatest prophets and figures of their history and heritage- Moses and Elijah. Not only this but then voice of God is heard- "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" All these things happen in such a short passage and in a short period of time... In one hundred and seventy-one words the disciples are taken from a place where they follow someone, they know to be special, who they suspect maybe their saviour... to a place where they know Jesus to not only human but divine... they KNOW he is their messiah the Son of God and they have been given a clear mandate by God to follow him. There is no wonder Peter wants to hold onto this moment... to keep it so he can better understand it... The transfiguration takes them to a place where they literally see Jesus more clearly.

This passage also links the Old and New... Elijah and Moses are as I said some of the most significant figures in the Jewish faith. For them to be seen with Jesus firmly places him in their company and in status with them. It establishes Jesus' role, and it brings together the history of God's people with their future. This revelation shows that the promises of the Old Testament will be fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament. The Old Testament promises the Jewish people that God will show up and here it's revealed that God has. The Father's words confirm again what was heard at Jesus' baptism. Bringing together that moment and this... Just as for us this week links the end of Epiphany Season a few weeks ago and the beginning of lent in a few days. Epiphany the celebration and focus on Jesus' infancy and Lent the run up and preparation for Jesus' death and resurrection. The transfiguration bridges the gap between the two stories. Jesus the baby born to a virgin mother, recognised in the temple is now revealed in his divinity on the mountain top. This moment confirms a lot of what Simeon and Anna said of Christ. It seals his identity as he begins a Jerusalem and Golgotha focused journey. Here the transfiguration brings together seasons of time and helps us to see through their unity more of who Jesus is.

The Jesus the Jewish people wanted... the saviour they desired was strong, charismatic, and willing to drive out the Romans. The Jesus the disciples wanted perhaps was similar. The Jesus revealed on the mountain is fully human, fully God and beloved... The Jesus revealed on the cross is human... divine... beloved but broken for us. The Jesus revealed on Easter Sunday is alive. Human. Divine. Victorious... Which Jesus do you want? Which Jesus do you expect to interact with as you pray and go about your everyday life? Because the reality is that Jesus is

all of these. The transfiguration bridges our expectations the reality of who Jesus is as well. It's not a moment we can understand, not really... But rather a moment like the burning bush Moses encountered. Something that draws us closer to God. It reminds us that we have more to learn about God... we have more to discover... there is more to be revealed to us. In worship, week after week, we are able to see God more clearly. We might expect Jesus who challenges us and find instead Jesus walking with and encouraging us. We might expect Jesus to be beyond us, too divine for us to comprehend... yet he is accessible and real. The Transfiguration reminds both our hearts and minds that God is present with us and yet more... This duality... This reality transfigured and revealed before us should I hope to encourage, inform, and inspire us. Urge us on to learn more. Experience more and to share more. As we worship, we see Jesus more clearly and my prayer for us all is that we would continue to do so always. Amen