



All Saints' Memorial Church

674 Westminster St., Providence, RI

www.allsaintsmemorial.org

E-Messenger August 7, 2024

Come and worship

Rejoice in fellowship

Love and serve the Lord!

“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 (Luke 9: 34-36).



Dear All Saints' Family,

Transfiguration

What exactly is a feast day? Just as one can say that an altar is a piece of earth raised a little toward heaven, so one can say of a feast day that it is a piece of time which touches eternity. (Joseph Jungmann, Pastoral Liturgy)

Yesterday was the Feast of Transfiguration - *a piece of time that touched eternity*. The church celebrated the revelation of Jesus' Glory. As the Transfiguration collect says, "*O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well beloved*

Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening;

Here are a few reflections on Transfiguration this year -

Patience – God’s time is not our time

The first reading appointed for Transfiguration is from *Exodus*. Moses goes up to Mount Sinai and comes down with the tablets of the covenant, face shining because he had been talking with God. Moses did not realize that his face was shining right away. The people witnessed this new light that Moses carried.

Scripture tells us that when Moses first went up on Mount Sinai, he waited. After six days the Glory of the Lord appeared. Moses was on the mountain forty days.

I can only imagine what Moses was thinking about as he waited for the Lord. Was he anxious? Was he wondering what was going to happen next in his precarious role as leader? Was he asking himself why he was up there on Sinai? By the way, while Moses waited and then spent time with the Lord the people of Israel waited. The people became impatient while Moses was up on Mount Sinai. This is the moment that they built the golden calf.

Moses' countenance was changed when he came down from Mount Sinai. Surely he was changed by this experience, notwithstanding the wait.

Waiting and not knowing is hard. Here is a brief reflection on patience from Brother Curtis Almquist, Society of St. John the Evangelist about the freedom of waiting and not knowing.

"There is a freedom that can be gleaned in your being powerless to know the future. God knows. God knows *what* you do not know, and God knows *that* you do not know. In the beginning of creation, God creates an interchange of light and darkness to fill each of our days. It is as true for the sky as it is for the soul. We can only bear so much light. Light can be as blinding as darkness. The eyes of your heart will be enlightened with as much light as you can bear... When you are in the dark, God is not in the dark...

If you are in the dark about something, your waiting invites patience for the dawning. The dawn *will* come in the fullness of time." (*Patience and the Crucible of Life*, June 16, 2024)

Silence is powerful – Listen to him!

In Luke's Gospel appointed for Transfiguration, Jesus was revealed on the mountain to be God's Son in the presence of two great Jewish prophets – Moses and Elijah. Jesus was joined by three disciples, Peter, John, and James.

Once this awe-filled and startling revelation of the transfigured Jesus and the two other prophets begins, Peter starts talking. Maybe it is nervous talking. "Let us make three dwellings," Peter says, "not knowing what he said." Next, we are told that a cloud overshadowed them and they heard a voice, God's voice saying, "*This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!*"

Listen! Deep into the experience of the Holy, whether alone or with others silence is sometimes the only response.

I am re-reading a book called *Silence: In the Age of Noise* by Erling Kagge, my fourth reading of this powerful set of reflections. Kagge relates a vignette about silence in awe-filled moments. It is a story about a respected Norwegian guide in Norway's mountain region, Claus Helberg.

"Early one morning Helberg led a group of hikers out from a famed Norwegian mountain cabin. The summer light was returning, winter had released its hold and new colours were emerging everywhere. The conditions were fantastic. Instead of commenting, he began the hike by handing out slips of paper to each participant, on which was written, *Yes, it is totally amazing...* Helberg understood that words create boundaries for our experiences. He wanted to avoid a situation where his group members were continuously remarking how amazing everything was, instead of actually concentrating on it being amazing."

Although the above photo taken by Mark Makuch is taken on the sea rather than a mountain, the brilliance and grandeur of the sky and powerful clouds take me

to Luke's Transfiguration account - the awe of God's words and the silence that follows.

This day after the Feast of Transfiguration may we remain patiently attentive to "that piece of time that touches eternity".

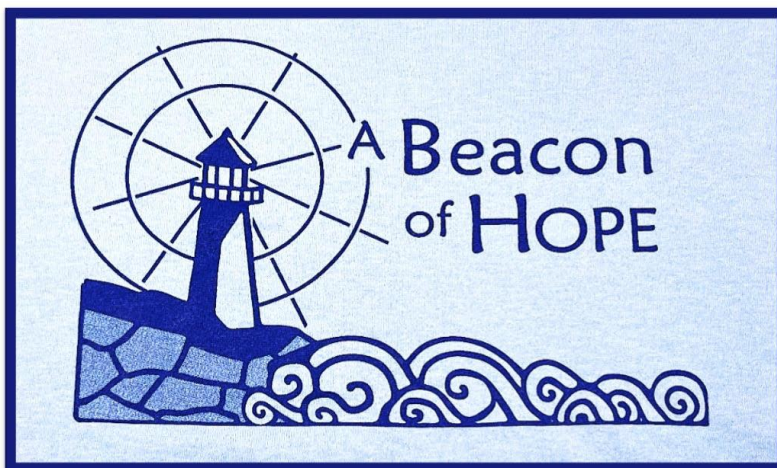
Peace and blessings,
Julie

All are warmly welcome to join our Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist in-person, on Facebook, or via zoom at 9:30 am.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484006164?pwd=ZzAvZVFUM2pKek0rMGVzMFFEc1FiUT09>

The Service program may be found [here](#).



Outreach News

Monthly Food Collection: This month we are collecting canned and packaged beans although any non-perishable food items are most welcome. Thank you for your generosity!



No Noonday Prayer Wednesday August 14th

We resume Noonday Prayer Wednesday August 21, at noon, in the church.

If you wish to join us via Zoom, here is the link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82955504419?pwd=Si9tTzVFbTR4K0ZjTy9jNVdkRFhuQT09>

Worship Ministry

During the summer we ask for volunteer lectors on Sunday mornings.

Upcoming Events

August 18: Cuttington University Alumnae Association joins our Sunday worship

August 21: Noonday Prayer in the church, 12:00 pm

August 25: Vestry Meeting following the Service

Prayers

We pray for our fellow parishioners Derek, Gus, Victor, Gloria, Wilmar, Trish, Susan, and Mary; and for Dorothea Evans Gordon, Naida Thomas, Lusaynie Sirleaf, John Flinton, James, Rachael, Jennifer, Carla, Sawyer L., Elizabeth Pacek, Calie, Ivy, John Dunning, Clara Hutchins, Andrew, Karen, Billy, and Rosie.

We pray for those who celebrate birthdays next week especially Dan Mechnig.

We pray for those who have died. May they rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal.

We pray for those who work for peace in the armed forces especially Hannah Makuch.

We pray for young adults in our congregation – Willcia and Joyce now college graduates, Victor, Roma, Kojo, Anne Marie, Sarah, Fatima, Raheem, and Sommie; we pray for Derrick and Natalya who graduated from high school, and Chimmy who graduated from Middle School. May they know the Lord's steadfast presence and love in all that they do.

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The Vestry:

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Musa Goll

Junior Warden

Chip Smith

Treasurer

Becky Silliman

Clerk

Pattie Marshall

Finance Chair

Dan Mechnig

Members

Rosetta Evans

Charlotte Burgess

Ryan Mott

Eric Hirsch

Gloria Perry

Kardi Draper

