



Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

**Sunday 6th August 2023
Transfiguration**

The feast of the Transfiguration marks a moment in Jesus' life where the mystery of who he truly is shines, even if only for a few short minutes, into the world. As Jesus is Transfigured before the disciples eyes, they're not seeing something new. They're simply seeing something that has been there all along, they just couldn't see it. In a brief moment of revelation they see a glimpse of the fulness of heaven's glory, but in reality nothing about Jesus changes in the Transfiguration. The only thing that changes is that the disciples can see the truth of who he is.

And I wonder if the same is true of us, and the way we see our world. Do we see material reality, and assume that's all there is? Or do we, from time to time, see the light of heaven shining through it? Do we see another, brighter reality waiting to break into our sightline? Because at heart, that is the task of the spiritual life: to see heaven, even while we live on earth. To know that our eyes alone aren't enough to tell us the truth about our world. To look, and listen, for the light of the transfigured Christ shining into our world, and know that that light, and not just the surface vision, is the truth about reality.

But if the Transfiguration asks us to look for a spiritual reality, it also tells us about the importance of our material reality. Peter famously asks to build three shelters, and stay on that mountaintop: 'It is good for us to be here' he says. But not long after the cloud lifts, the voice of God is only an echo, the light fades, and it's just ordinary Jesus again.

We might want more than anything to stay on the mountaintop, in those moments when it all makes sense. We might want some escape from the grit and grime of our everyday world, into a more beautiful place. But the Transfiguration reminds us that the light of heaven was poured into human form, precisely so that this material reality could be made holy. Even with the grit and the grime. It reminds us that every part of our lives, however day-to-day, is sacred. Every path we tread, and every person we meet, holds some part of this divine reality that Jesus revealed in shining light. So perhaps today the Transfiguration might remind us that, whether we're on the mountaintop, or down in the grit and the grime, the light of heaven is still, and forever, poured into our world to make it holy.

Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14

As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.
A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousand served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgement,
and the books were opened.
As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.
To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Luke 9.28-36

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.' Peter did not know 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.

TODAY

9:30am: **Transfiguration Family Service:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads and preaches

4:00pm **Team Evensong:** St Columba's

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

Thurs 2:00pm, Community Room: **Film Club: Railway Children Return**

Fri 12:00pm, Church: **Funeral of Howard Cleeve**

Sat 10am-12pm, Community Room – **Saturday Café**

Sun 13th 9:30am: **Trinity 10** – Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner leads and preaches with readings from Genesis 37.1-4,12-28, Romans 10.5-15 and Matthew 14.22-33 4:00pm

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 31st Aug 10:00am **Men's Group Summer Outing:** Newcastle Cathedral

Sun 3rd Sept 9:30am **St Aidan's Family Service with Bishop Mark**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/Transfigurationa2023>

TEAM EVENSONG – today at 4pm at St Columba's. Do join us for Evening Prayer to celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration along with some lovely music from Chris Clinch and our team choir.

ST AIDAN'S DAY - we will be celebrating St Aidan during our Family Service on Sunday 3rd September. Bishop Mark will be joining us and to add to the celebration, following the service we will have 'Elevenses', with simple nibbles, scones and a glass of something fizzy, along with some traditional, fun family games. If you'd like to bring something simple to add to the food table, please put your name on the list at the back of church.

REV'D GERARD RUNDRELL ANNUAL LEAVE – Gerard will be on annual leave until Monday 28th August. If you need any help during this time, please contact Rev'd Ben Pullan or a Churchwarden.

MANOR HOUSE SUMMER FAYRE – will be held on Sat 19th August at 2pm. Please pop in and support our St Aidan's neighbours if you are able to.

SATURDAY CAFE & SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS - there are still spaces for any volunteers who can assist with refreshments on the new rotas covering August to Nov. The sign up list is at the back of church.

SONGS OF PRAISE IS COMING TO JESMOND – on Monday 21st August at St George's Church from 18:30 – 21:30pm. All tickets are free of charge. To apply for tickets, please contact singwithus@ctvc.co.uk with your name, contact phone number and the number of tickets you'd like. Please be sure to include 'Songs of Praise Jesmond' in your subject header. Alternatively, you can call 07734 030 888 to book your tickets.

SAFEGUARDING – further to our talk from Dr Sarah Troughton, we would like to remind you that Catherine Stewart is our Lead Safeguarding Officer. There is also information about our Safeguarding Policy on the noticeboards in both entrances.

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDsm1KOURtQT09M>

Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

FOOD BANK – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

DONATIONS - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Churches in our Deanery: Jesmond Parishes. Local Ministry Group and Pastoral Care Group, Eco church Group and Social Committee

For the community – Brunton Park Medical Centre, local shops and businesses

For the world – all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

For those in need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg, Martin Seaton, Sofiia Karnaukh

For those who have died – Howard Cleeve and on their anniversaries: Bill Robinson, Eva Hows, Brenda Short, Jane Dockar, Belle Allen, Penny Graham, Maureen Rhind, Rebecca Cleugh, John Blackman, Henry McGray, Kathleen Phillips, Margaret Danskin

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 [St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle www.staidanschurchurchbruntonpark.co.uk](https://www.staidanschurchurchbruntonpark.co.uk)