

WELCOME TO...
The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
February 15, 2015

**WHAT
DO**

**YOU
SEE?**

Gathering: *A door stands open to heaven, and we are invited to look through to see God - surrounded by the beauty and diversity and wonder and power of all creation. We are invited to see that all we can see bows down before the God we cannot see. Holy, holy holy!*

A door stands open to heaven, and we are invited to look through to see we cannot see God. Holy, holy, holy!

And yet still to know, that in seeing Jesus - in seeing love, we see what cannot be seen. And even in our imminence, we

then see the absolute transcendence of God. Holy, holy, holy!

~ written by John Ballenger

Hymn: Lord of Light (1-2)

769

Opening and Confession: *Reveal your presence to us this day, O God of light, love, and glory. As you did to your servants at the foot of the mountain, send your Spirit to show us your story. May the brilliance of your face illuminate this place as we dare to proclaim your Word and may we, your people, be never unable to tell all of that we have heard. Forgive us, O God, when we stumble in the darkness and turn away from your face. Strengthen us to walk in your brightness and live in your ways. Enlighten the shadows that keep us from growing in your love and light. Shower us with your grace, that we might shine as your people upon this earth.*

Hymn: Lord of Light (3-4)

769

**Focus Reading:
Mark 9:2-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

**Reflection: adapted from Kate Matthews Huey
and Matt Skinner**

Mountaintop experiences are part of the life of faith. There are times when we feel lifted up, taken up to a place a little closer to God and God's glory. There are times when we feel we are hearing God speaking to us, telling us things, giving us direction, comfort, joy.

These times, alas, do not come often, no matter how much we long for them. We live our lives mostly down here on the ground, unaware of the wondrous, transformative power of God at work in the world, especially in the life of the church. This text, which manifests Jesus' identity so dramatically, brings the season of Epiphany to a fitting close before we begin the journey of Lent. The bright light of the Transfiguration affirms life, a light that shines ahead into Lent to keep that season in perspective, never without hope and confidence. This light speaks a promise that God is here. And that God is knowable. God seeks relationship. Because God is life.

During this Epiphany season, how has your congregation come to deeper understanding of who Jesus is, and then, a deeper understanding of who you are, as a people of faith? What are moments of insight, when you both saw God's glory and heard God still speaking to you, calling you to the path of discipleship?

What are glimpses you have had of a light too bright for any of us to see, that drew a response from you, a desire to do something, as Peter had, to mark this event? Is that something our churches do, like Peter – mark the event, look backward, instead of forward, see only partial truths instead of the big picture? Is it possible that our building projects may distract us from more important things?

Do we walk right by the brightest lights and sweetest sounds and miss the most important moments of our journey in faith, because we were paying attention to something else? If God spoke to Jesus directly at his baptism and to the disciples at the Transfiguration, proclaiming him the Son of God, in what ways are we more like the Roman centurion who saw Jesus on the cross and exclaimed,

"Surely this man was the Son of God"? What do we need to see, and what do we need to hear, in order to understand, and to follow?

Hymn: Shine Jesus shine

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