

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 27th Feb 2022, Sunday next before Lent

Old Testament: Exodus 34: 29-35

Psalm: Psalm 99

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4.2

Gospel: Luke 9: 28-36[37-43a]

Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Angela Tilby

The transfiguration of Jesus is the pivot of the gospel story, the central event in the Lord's earthly life, both completing his ministry in Galilee and pointing ahead to his passion. This is emphasized in Luke's version where Moses and Elijah speak with Jesus of his *exodos* – his departure. This word can mean death – departure from life – but it also echoes the exodus from Egypt, suggesting that the death of Christ will bring freedom to many.

After the transfiguration, Jerusalem becomes the only direction of travel. The disciples were drowsy, possibly asleep during the action moment of the transfiguration, but they saw its after-effects and experienced the cloud that overshadowed the event. After the questioning of the previous verses, the transfiguration finally reveals Jesus' heavenly origin. For us, such a realization may come as a fleeting experience in worship or prayer. The icons that are so much a part of Orthodox spirituality remind us that God's glory is located in the face of Jesus Christ, but earthbound as we are, we are only occasionally able to glimpse it.

collect for the Sunday next before Lent

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.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm