

March 3, 2019

Transfiguration Sunday

Ancient Reading ~ *Luke 9:28-36*

Now about eight days after these sayings, Jesus climbed the mountain to pray, taking Peter, John, and James along. While Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face became different, and the clothes he wore became dazzlingly white (flashing with the brilliance of lightning). Suddenly two people were there talking with Jesus-- Moses and Elijah. They appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus, the one Jesus was about to complete in Jerusalem. Peter and the others had already fallen into a deep sleep, but awakening, they saw Jesus' glory—and the two people who were standing next to him. When the two were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, how good it is for us to be here! Let's set up three shelters (booths, huts, dwellings), one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!” Peter didn't really know what he was saying.

While Peter was speaking, a cloud came and enveloped them. As they found themselves buried in it, they became deeply aware of God. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my own, my Beloved. Listen to him!” When the sound of the voice faded away, they saw no one but Jesus standing there. They kept still, quiet, they were speechless, and they continued so, telling not one thing to anyone during those days of what they had seen.

Contemporary Reading ~ *adapted from Father Richard Rohr in “Hope Against Darkness: The Transforming Vision of Saint Francis in an Age of Anxiety”*

For Christians, the abandonment of modernism's certainty is going to be a journey deeper into both biblical religion and the “tremendous mystery” of Jesus. He is the archetype of what it means to be a full human being. He holds together heaven and earth, divine and human, a male body with a female soul. He is a living example of full consciousness, which is precisely to accept the usually rejected unconscious fear-filled and shadowy parts of reality. He's the child of God and the child of Adam. We need to realize that we are also children of God and children of earth, of divinity and of flesh, of light and shadow. All are good. And they are even better when put together... When all can happily coexist within us, one might say... we are “saved.”