

Last Epiphany – C  
Luke 9:28-36  
Feb. 26, 2022  
St Columba's

In the Name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Intro

Today, we have arrived at the Last Sunday of Epiphany.

And as is always the case on this Sunday, we hear once again of Jesus' Transfiguration.

For us, Jesus' Transfiguration is the final MANIFESTATION of this season of "Making Known" just who Jesus really is.



Angelico, fra, approximately 1400-1455. Transfiguration, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/link.pl?RC=47774> [retrieved February 17, 2022]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fra\\_Angelico\\_042.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fra_Angelico_042.jpg).

**The Last Sunday after Epiphany C  
February 27, 2022, 9:30 a.m.**

## I. Manifestations

A. Throughout this season of Epiphany we have witnessed the revealing or manifestation of God's glory in Jesus.

1. The light of God in Christ has been growing from babyhood to this time of his last journey to Jerusalem.

2. We saw that light begin to flicker in Jesus as a baby when the Magi came to worship the new born King – Jesus' first manifestation to the world.

3. We saw the light begin to grow stronger at his baptism, another manifestation as Jesus was declared to be God's beloved son.

4. At the Wedding in Cana, Jesus is again made known in his power to change water into wine – and we are told his Disciples believed in him.

5. At Nazareth his preaching revealed his glory as he set forth his action plan:

- to preach good news to the poor
- to proclaim release to the captives
- to bring recovery of sight to the blind
- to free those who are oppressed
- and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

6. We see Jesus' glory acknowledged again in the calling of his first Disciples, as they left everything to follow him.

7. And in his teaching that glory is further revealed as Jesus tells his followers how to live out this new life of the Kingdom of God he brings.

8. And now at his **Transfiguration** everything comes together;

- Jesus reflects in his person the glory of God,
- the past is fulfilled in the appearance of Moses and Elijah,
- and now the voice from heaven proclaims Jesus God's

Chosen One and the Disciples are told to listen to him.

B. And it is this VOICE that reaches across the Season of Epiphany to connect the Transfiguration to Jesus' Baptism.

1. At his Baptism, the VOICE from heaven, proclaims Jesus as God's "BELOVED" and now, at the Transfiguration, Jesus is God's "CHOSEN;"

- and the Disciples are to listen to Him.

2. And we too are called to listen to the VOICE of God – that VOICE deep within us.

3. For just as the voice proclaimed Jesus God's Beloved – so too are WE God's Beloved.

## II. Image of God

A. As you know, one of my heroes of the faith is the Celtic Spirituality Scholar, **John Philip Newell**.

1. And over and over again in his talks and in his books, **John Philip** talks about Celtic Christianity's belief that WE are not only made in the image of God but we are made OF God.

- And if we are made of God – we must be the “Beloved of God.”

2. The early Celtic Teacher, *Pelagius*, said, that our nature is holy.

- He said we are made in the IMAGE of God and the LIKENESS of God.

- He goes on to say the wisdom of God is WITHIN us.

3. John Philip quotes **Julian of Norwich** who said, “We are not just made by God – we are made OF God.”

- So then deep within us is God's being.

5. In other words, we are made of the very SUBSTANCE of God.

6. John Philip says, the WISDOM OF God is deep within us

- The CREATIVITY of God is deep within us.

7. And the deeper we move into the mystery of our being – the deeper we come to holy longings.

B. In his newest book, that we studied last fall, John Philip says that although we are made of God, we live in a time of forgetfulness.

1. We forget the deeper ground of our being which is PURE God.

2. Again and again we are given the impression that what is deepest in us is in OPPOSITION to God, rather than OF God.

3. But as the Celts remind us, what is deepest in us is OF God – not Sin.

4. So then if what is deepest in us is OF God – and we are made of the very SUBSTANCE of God – how can we not be the **Beloved of God**?

5. If what is deepest within us is OF God, then, John Philip says – we are the BEARERS of the **Blessing of God**.

6. We carry deep within us this energy of blessing and transformation – that we as “God’s Beloved” are called to share with the world.

### III. Making Known

A. The Disciples are told to listen to Jesus and so are we.

1. For when we are in touch with that which is deepest within us – when we are connected to the “God within Us” – then we are better able to hear and respond to the VOICE of God.

2. And the thing that we are to do as the **Beloved of God** – is to make known God’s love.

3. The Season of Epiphany has been for us a kind of DRESS REHEARSAL of all the ways that we can make God’s love known.

4. We make God’s love known in WORD and DEED, even by living into Jesus’ action plan:

- to preach good news to the poor
- and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord by serving those who are literally and spiritually captive, blind and oppressed.

5. As one person put it:

- “We carry God within us – that’s quite a responsibility.
- God is love – and we should personify that love.”(Jenny Bemis)

B. For the true meaning of the Transfiguration is not found on the Mountain Top – the true meaning of the Transfiguration is in the living of our lives.

1. Just as Jesus leads his Disciples down from the mountain – so too we are led to work in the **trenches** of our faith and of our lives.

2. Jesus tells the Disciples and US it won't always be easy – but He will always be there for support.

3. And to be in touch with God – to be connected with that which is deepest within us – we need that time of quiet and deep listening that **Lent** can bring.

4. The Bible Scholar Don Armentrout says, “The call of the Lord to discipleship is a call to self-denial and self-discipline.

-“It is a call to bear our cross and to be changed into his into his likeness from glory to glory.”

5. He goes on to say, “Let us rejoice, and then let us take stock and prepare to enter the season of Lent.

6. “It is a time, he says, “when we shall bear with [Jesus] in the wilderness, and walk with him along the Via Dolorosa to another mount, the mount of Calvary.

- “For in that way alone will we really understand the good news that ‘He is risen from the dead, and he is Lord.’” (Synthesis – Feb 14, 2010)

7. And that is the GOOD NEWS we are called to share.

- “We carry God within us – that’s quite a responsibility.

- God is love – and we should personify that love.”

## Conclusion

One Scholar I read put it this way:

- “As we prepare to enter the season of Lent, we most certainly are coming down from the mountain – from the bright lights of Christmas and the season of Epiphany to the trenches of our faith.

- “But having glimpsed the revelation of our God means the world is never the same. Neither are we.” (Synthesis CE – Feb 10, 2013)

As we turn the corner to Lent – let us listen to that which is deep within us and respond with loving hearts and open arms to all those we meet.

Let us Pray

God of glory, you gave the vision of your Son to those who watched on the mountain; grant that by our glimpse of him we may be changed into his glorious likeness, that we may be strengthened to follow him as we put our whole faith and trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen** (NZ p566)

