

The Communicator

First Christian Church, Russellville, KY March 2023



LARRY'S LINES

In February we began the Lenton Season with our Ash Wednesday Service. Here are some Observations on Matthew 17, written by Laura Traux: The story of the Transfiguration is a gospel oddity. With precious few exceptions, Jesus looked every day of his life as ordinary as ordinary could be. Despite the common depiction of him in artwork, there was no visible halo over his head, no peculiar glow from his face, no beatific expression on his face. He was truly human, as the Church has long confessed. But he was truly divine, too, but incognito most of the time. Except here. For a few awesome moments, divine glory burst through. Everything we associate with divinity—power, splendor, blinding light, radiant effulgence—dominated Jesus' appearance. Elijah and Moses put in a cameo, too. Peter wants to capture it, of course, and keep it going but for now, that just can't happen.

The text says in Greek that Jesus "metamorphed" or "transfigured" before their eyes, but I've long thought that's wrong. A metamorphosis is usually something that happens when someone or something changes from something it wasn't previously into something new. In Jesus' case, however, that didn't happen: it's more that something of what he had been all along became visible briefly.

Lent is a time to remember our sins and our mortality. How does a text like this help us do that? Perhaps this way: none of us is divine as Jesus was. Yet the New Testament tells us that we have been recreated into his glorious image, that all who now live "in Christ" have become a new creation even now. The tragedy of our sin is that we forget this. When we are unkind to a Christian brother or sister, we inflict harm on someone who, if we could see who they really are in Christ and what they will look like in our Father's kingdom, we would be tempted to fall down and worship. When we abuse our own bodies or debase ourselves in various ways, we forget who we are in Christ.

The transfiguration was in its own way a unique event specific to Jesus. Yet its deepest truth dwells deep within us now, too. Remembering that gives us reason to live for Christ now and also hope for beyond the grave. Like Moses and Elijah, we also will one day be with our Lord, talking with him and seeing him as he is even as we shall appear as what we really are already now: glorious beings in Christ!





World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.



First Day of Spring
March 20



First Christian Church

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Treasurer: Vickie Kemp

Secretary: Gayle Goley

Accompanist: Shannon Gorrell

Deacons & Elders meeting March 15th 6pm

Serving in March 2023

Elders: Ray Clark, Vickie Kemp

Deacons: Donna Bryan, Becky Kemp

Prayer Concerns:			
Roger Colston	Dann Masden	Ken Mercer	Lauren Riley Stafford
Lori McClure	Rita Stuart	Freddie Wright	Mary Noe (Tiz) Koester
Patricia Y. Bailey	Betty Johnson	Esther Kees	Mildred & Marshall
Donna Bryan	Frankie Smith	Gary Arnold	Ruth Ann Street
Dann Masden	Tom Kemp	John Weber	Sally Neeley
Bettye O'Kelley	Paula Clark	Laura Nealy	Mack Mallory
Scottie Markham	Amy Givens		