

Key Scripture - Mark 9:6

He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Theme - Speechless



Welcome and Announcements

† Newcomers please sign our guestbook



† Special requests may be made through Facebook

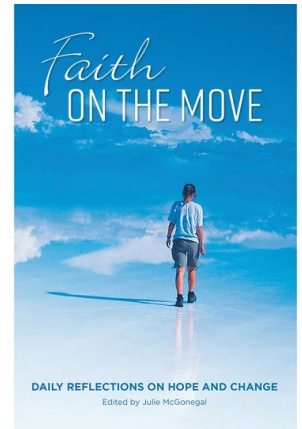


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† Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

- Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- Our church building is closed during the Stay at Home Order except in the case of urgent requirement.
 - Pick up or deliveries may be made at the Choir Door, corner of Market and Russell Streets on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Please knock and somebody will assist you.
 - Deliveries may be made at other times by arrangement.
 - Brown Bags and Blessings continues.
 - Church business will be conducted remotely
 - Worship will be recorded and posted to FaceBook and will be rebroadcast on COGECO (Your TV) the following Sunday at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

- Those who subscribe to the “Broadview” through the church should let Brenda King know their intentions regards renewal.
 - The renewal fee is \$25.00. If you are paying through the church, please place your \$25.00 in a separate envelope from your regular offering *or* please indicate on your offering envelope that \$25.00 is designated for your subscription renewal.
- The Spiritual Leadership Team is sponsoring a Lenten Devotional Discussion based on the book -
 - Faith on the Move: Daily Reflections on Hope and Change
 - If you would like to participate in the remote discussion, please leave a message at the Office - 613 283-4444



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls and Lanark County. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program and through the kindness of individual benefactors.

Two Guys for Lunch are partners with us.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Introit 214 "May God's Sheltering Wings"

May God's sheltering wings
Her gathering wings protect you
May God's nurturing arms,
Her cradling arms sustain you

And hold you in her love!
And hold you in her love!

Call to Worship

God said, "Let light shine in the darkness!"
Lord, shine your light into our lives.

We see the glory of God in the face of Christ.
The light of Christ is with us day by day.

Let us follow the light of Christ together.
Let us worship God with thanks and praise.

Opening Prayer

God of grace and glory,

To this worried world, you reveal your presence
in radiant glory and in gentle whispers,
on mountain tops and in shadowed valleys,
in classrooms and hospital beds,
in homes and churches,
in the quiet of nature and on busy streets.

Yours is the presence that pushes past our fear to calm us;
yours is the love that transforms our doubt with reassurance.

We come to dwell in your goodness
and offer you the praise you deserve.

Hymn 104 "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks in upon our darkness,
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.

Learning with Children

This week, we sent out another activity package. In it is a copy of the large valentine card we made out of the cards that you made and sent in. Chris Dickson put it together for us. It is quite wonderful.

Most people know that Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate love and friendship and the joy of having other people in your life. It's a day of flowers, candy and cards decorated with hearts.

I never knew how Valentine's Day came about ... Although I did know that there was a person named Valentine and he was made a Saint by the Church. To be made a Saint means that there was something in his life that was very special.

The most common story about how Valentines came about goes something like this -

About 1700 years ago, the Roman Emperor wanted to build a strong army. It was thought that soldiers who had families would be distracted from their duties because of other chores, concerns or cares. It seemed that Soldiers who had families were more cautious. So the Emperor outlawed marriage for those young men.

It is pretty hard to outlaw love. Young men and women still fell in love and wanted to become married. A priest named Valentine thought the law was unfair. So Valentine continued performing marriage ceremonies in secret.

When the Emperor found out, that was the end of Valentine. Some people say that he met his end on February 14th.

So Valentine was made a Saint, not because he was so in love with his partner but because he opened the way for others to express their love and make a family.

Do you know what is really wonderful about this Card? You made it so that other people would feel loved. Young people and Old people and folk in between got together through the mail and found a way for others to express their love together with you ... and this makes our Church like a family even in these difficult days ... just like St Valentine helped folk express their love during difficult days long, long ago.

Children's Prayer

Dear God,

We thank You for folk like St Valentine who helped people find love and form families in difficult days. We pray that in our difficult days that you would cause us to continue being creative in finding ways that we and others can also find love and comfort as a church family and caring community.

Amen.

Prayer of Reconciliation

God of mercy and forgiveness,

We confess that many things keep us from trusting fully.

We are distracted by desires and disappointments.

We sometimes fear for the future rather than seek signs of hope.

Forgive us.

Shine your love upon us so that your glory may be seen in us,
and give us courage to follow Jesus wherever he leads,
for we pray in his name. Amen.

Assurance of Blessing

John wrote that God is love and that God's perfect love casts out fear.

We are promised that those who abide in love abide in God
and God abides in them.

Claim God's forgiveness in this Good News:

God's perfect love abides in you.

Scripture 2 Kings 2:1-12;
 Psalm 50:1-6;
 Mark 9:2-9

2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50 (VU 775)

Refrain -

The mighty one, God the Sovereign, speaks and summons the earth.

God, the Almighty, has spoken;
**and summoned the world
from the rising of the sun to its setting.**
God shines out from Zion, a city perfect in beauty.
Our God appears, and will not keep silence.

Refrain -

The mighty one, God the Sovereign, speaks and summons the earth.

Before you, God, runs a consuming fire,
and a mighty tempest rages about you.
**You call on the heavens above,
and on the earth below,
to witness the judgement of your people:**
'Gather my people before me,
the people who made covenant with me by sacrifice.'
**The heavens proclaim your justice,
for you yourself are judge.**

Refrain -

The mighty one, God the Sovereign, speaks and summons the earth.

Mark 9:2-8

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 any more, but only Jesus.

God bless our understanding of this reading.

Meditation "My Own True Love: Tara Theme" (David)

Reflection Speechless

Autosomal Dominant Compelling Helio-Ophthalmic Outburst (ACHOO) syndrome is a reflex condition that causes sneezing in response to looking at bright lights. The condition affects 18–35% of the world's population, but its exact mechanism of action is not well understood. Not being a Physician, my view of the condition leads me to assume that we have folk who specialize in Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throats because they are connected systems and if one is suddenly overwhelmed, it triggers a reaction in the related or connected systems. An interesting reaction and surprising reaction for a seemingly unrelated stimulus. No amount of knowing or preparing prevents the reaction if you are subject to it.

This is Transfiguration Sunday, the readings are exactly what we expect. They are pretty much the same as last year and next. While the story may come from different Gospels, it is pretty much always the same account. The pattern in all the Gospels is similar.

The Transfiguration accounts begin with “6 or 8 days later.” This vision begins with a context that reaches back a full week to something else. That “something else” was known to the disciples, they have a week to mull Jesus’ words over. What’s more that “something else” rests at the core of their hope - the completion of Christ’s work and the coming of the promised Kingdom.

In Mark's Gospel, the story before the story ends with, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

So, with six days' warning, "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." Despite a week to prepare for this revelation, so overwhelmed was Peter that he speaks as if offering an involuntary reflex - ... "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Clearly, the Gospel writer found this response strange or inappropriate because they offer the comment, "***He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.***" Perhaps as strange as sneezing when you exit your home on a bright sunny day.

What an interesting thing, to be overwhelmed by something you expect. Especially, when you do not actually have to do much or anything, really ... Just show up.

We have been severely, socially limited for almost a year now. We know this. From the beginning, we were told that whatever normal might be, it was not coming until there was a vaccine. We have a handful now. Despite challenges and supply complications that entertain politicians and your Facebook Friends, we fully expect something like normal in the autumn. We know that. However, like eyes that have become accustomed to the relative dimness of indoors, we may be surprised by our reaction. We may, in fact, find quite ourselves overwhelmed by the very thing we crave. Whether we know this or not, our reaction may very well be like a reflex that we cannot really control.

He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

What happens next?

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

The voice calls us to our centre which is what some people would equate with Mindfulness or Meditation... grounding ourselves in the words of Jesus.

After COVID-19, when we find ourselves where we want to be, when we find ourselves where we ***think*** we are prepared to be, there will likely be a form of unexpected emotional reaction. You may find that your fantasy of seeing all your friends is too much and you have to retreat or catch your breath, or shed confused tears. A crossing of the finish line that sees us unexpectedly spent or overwhelmed.

Coming out of the cloud that is COVID, we will need to hear these words ***"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"***

And what did Jesus say?

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

We have time to prepare but we will still react. Some may feel overwhelmed. Others will want to do everything at once ... and then feel overwhelmed. When we do, let us be ready simply to listen to Jesus and find comfort and rest.

Hymn 703 "In The Bulb There Is A Flower"

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

We Respond to God's Word Offering Ourselves For The Work And Witness Of The Church

Invitation to the Offering

Valentine's Day reminds us of the transforming power love has in many lives. Gifts we offer to God from the heart also transform lives. Let your offering today express your love for God and God's love for the world in Christ Jesus.

Offering Prayer

God of life and love, receive our gifts as tokens of our love. Bless them so they strengthen the ministries of love we undertake in Jesus' name. May our lives shine with hope in these difficult days of wintertime, as we wait for healing and renewal through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 372 "Though I May Speak"

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

Prayers of the People

God of life, God of love:

You created us and set us in relationship with each other—
in families and neighbourhoods, communities and
countries, cultures and nations.

We give you thanks for all the supportive relationships
which bring meaning and encouragement to our lives,
and have meant so much in times of isolation.

Help us contribute what we can to sustain the wellbeing of
our community
for all who call it home.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of our faith and our future,

Draw near to those who are struggling in economic difficulty
and those burdened by the challenges to health and
happiness this winter.

Work with parents and children, married partners, and next-door
neighbours

who face conflict their relationships
to create solutions that express mutual respect and
resolve tension.

Help our congregation support families, whatever their size or
situation,

as well as people living on their own.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of mercy and forgiveness,

You call us to live together in peace and unity.

We pray for our neighbourhoods and our nation.

Where people are divided and bitterness turns into resentment,
show us how to work for reconciliation.

As the pandemic stretches on,

we pray for all whose skill and dedication is needed
to support our common life -

Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services,
Nurses, Doctors, Support Staff, Grocery Clerks and
Farmers.

Wherever we can, may we offer words of encouragement and
appreciation

so others know much they matter to you and to us all.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Today we give thanks for our church family
and for the years of worship and witness offered here.
Much has changed for us over these past few months
and we pray you will bless our Faithful Folk
who work carefully and creatively so congregational
life continues.

We remember those of our number in need of your special
attention today...

Barb Byam

Millie O'Neil

The families of those who have passed during this
Pandemic and have been deprived from the full presence of caring
folk due to limitations and lockdowns -

Fred Haughton

Joyce Dinner-Latourell, and

Iris Hogan

Guide us with your wisdom and insight

so we find ways to reach out to each other in support and
friendship.

Open our eyes to opportunities to reach out beyond our own
fellowship

as agents of your healing and hope

for we offer ourselves to you in Jesus' name.

Prayers conclude with:

We experience God in a relationship from which we draw
strength, courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and
Sustainer; Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer
Jesus taught us -

The Lord's Prayer

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn 333 "Love Divine"

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder,
love, and praise.

Benediction

God sends us from this sacred space.

**We will go to share the good news of grace,
to offer healing to the broken.**

Jesus would not have us stay here forever.

**We will go to find our sisters and brothers
in the valleys of injustice and the neighborhoods of
addiction.**

The Spirit fills us with the gifts we need as we leave.

**We will go to help rebuild the lives of those around us,
to share feasts of hope and peace with everyone.**

Amen.

Choral Amen

Postlude "The Rose" (McBroom)