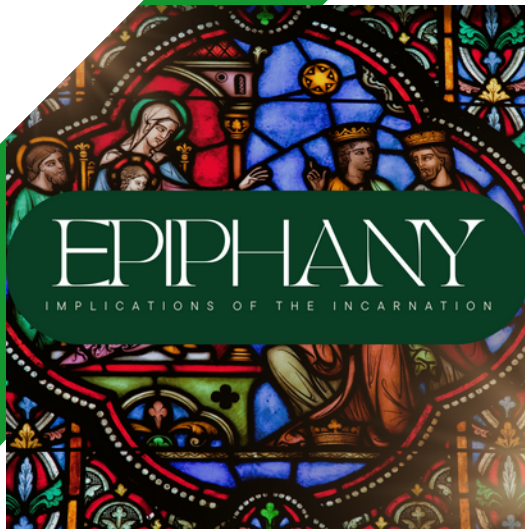
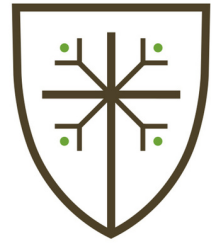


SERMON NOTES



February 11, 2024

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Transfiguration"

PREACHER

Rev. Craig Chapman

TEXTS

2 Kings 2:1, 6-11

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Mark 9:2-9

DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. Where and how do we see God's presence revealed with us now?
2. Our sermon series has been titled "implications of the incarnation." What are the powerful implications of the glory of God revealed in Jesus's human body? (consider Craig's statement: Only a God of fearful power is strong enough to overcome evil.)

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This Sunday we wrapped up the Season of Epiphany with the story of the Transfiguration, when we, as Craig said, turn from the mountain top light of Epiphany to the valley of Lent. And on that mountain top, the true glory of God is revealed.

The Reveal

In the transfiguration, Jesus's divinity is revealed to his closest disciples. In the gospel of Luke, we're told that the disciples slept and were afraid when they awoke and found Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah. Like the disciples, startled awake, God's presence awakens us to his reality. When you are worshipping God rightly, you are the most awake and truly human that you've ever been. But while the disciples are startled awake from their physical sleep, some lingering spiritual sleep is betrayed in Peter's offer to build three tents for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, as if Jesus needed a tent. The tent of meeting was God's initial dwelling place in the midst of his Old Testament people. But now, the dwelling place of God is Jesus. He is God with man, in the flesh.

Like in Old Testament times, God mediates the glory of his presence in a cloud. He is present yet hidden that we might know of his presence and live. The words and presence of Jesus overcome our fears and enable us to rise. But when we succumb to worry and fear, we give them more weight than God. Only a God of fearful power is strong enough to overcome the evil in our lives and in the world. Jesus' divine reveal affirms that he has this power – the power strong enough to defeat the power of death. But it also affirms the divine triune love needed to do down from the mountain top into the valley for us.

The Meaning

On this mountain top, the eternal love of the trinity is revealed to his adopted children. The love into which they have been grafted. It is a profound, sacrificial love that reveals itself on the mountain and then goes down into the world below. This love is what helps Jesus to bear all things and to persevere into the darkness. And it is what helps us to bear all things and persevere into the darkness with him. Like all disciples, you go with him and he goes with you.