

# ***Reflections from a United Methodist Pastor***

***January 16, 2022***

***Lesson 7***

**Title: The Transfiguration**

**Text: Mark 9:2-8**

What blessings have I missed because I had a pre-conceived notion as to how God would reveal God's presence?

In this week's Focal Passage, Peter decided that the thing to do in the presence of the transformed Christ was to build a shrine (Mark 9:5) like they did in olden days (Exodus 25:8-9; 2 Samuel 7:2, 6). But God was trying to show these disciples that God was going to do a new thing (Mark 9:9-10).

Today, God invites the Church into new expressions of inclusion, but we may miss it because "We've never done it that way before."

The transfiguration scene, from one perspective, may be seen as a forecast of the resurrection. There is also the echo (verse 7) of the voice that proclaimed at Jesus' baptism "You are my Son, whom I dearly love" (Mark 1:11). In a sense, this scene captures the full range of the public life of our Lord. The call to "Listen to him" (Mark 9:7) acknowledges the unfolding teaching. Baptism. Teaching. Resurrection.

Peter, James, and John were certainly three of Jesus' closest disciples, yet they were "terrified" (verse 6) at what was happening. In *Living Letters*, Kenneth Taylor says they were "scared stiff." I am left to wonder if I have become so comfortable with God's revelation that I don't have these moments of being stunned or overcome.

So, what do we do with the revelation? God tells us to listen to God's Son. What do we hear being said in 2022? In a little more than a month, the Church calendar will call for Transfiguration Sunday. It's not usually one of the "big moments" in Church life. I wonder if it is because we are terrified.

**Prayer:** As you prepare this lesson, let your prayer begin, "Stay with me, Lord."

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