



Dear Friends

August 6th, the Feast of the Transfiguration is one of the few feasts that, when it falls on a Sunday, takes precedence over the normal observance of that Sunday. This year August 6th is the ninth Sunday after Pentecost and we would normally use the readings for Proper 13. However, the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ, (always August 6th) falls on a Sunday this year, so we omit Proper 13 and celebrate the Transfiguration. (Clear as Mississippi mud? I thought so.) If you are interested in how our church year works, look in the Book of Common Prayer on pages 15 through 33. The creators of our lectionary, many people from different denominations, working over many years, have seen fit to make sure that we have a Sunday at least once per year in which the Gospel is the story of the Transfiguration. That Sunday is always the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday. In addition, Transfiguration also has its own fixed day, August 6th.

So, what's the point of all of this? Why is it so important to hear this story once, or every seven years, twice in a year?

Transfiguration refers to a visual change. Something *looks* different. Joy will transfigure your face into a smile.

Transformation refers to a fundamental change in design, focus or purpose. Wheat is transformed into bread.

In the Transfiguration, Jesus isn't changed, Peter, James and John are. We are changed. For just a moment, the veil of his humanity is lifted, and we see clearly the divine, the heavenly, the glorified, the eternal Jesus. It is always there, we just can't always see it. Jesus is divine AND Jesus is human. Our faith leads us to lives of BOTH/AND, and rarely leads us to choices of either/or. We are human AND we embody and divine spirit. We are mortal AND we are called to life eternal. We are totally dependent on God for life and salvation AND we are called to be the hands and feet of God in this world. God's love is an unearned, unmerited gift of love AND we are called to respond in that.

Jesus is transfigured, we can see his glory. We are transformed, we live in his glory.

Your Sister in Christ,
Mother Bonnie+

